

**SPECIAL
DOUBLE
ISSUE**

PEACE ON EARTH

Paul Wells on a surprisingly
civil election P. 18

Something
new in
Iraq: hope
P. 4

EXCLUSIVE:

SANTA INTERVIEW

Shortbread, fundamentalists,
and that DUI rumour P. 15

MACLEANS



DEC.
26
2005

NEWSMAKERS 2005

The year's winners, losers, deal makers, home wreckers, heroes and rats P. 54

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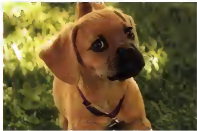
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'Broadbent served as a model of political ethics throughout his 20-year career. I've always thought he would have made a fine prime minister if he had been wearing different colours.'



MEET HAVE 2001 Please don't make comments into shopping impulses with fashion stores!

groom who owns Fox News, has served as a board member. And references to Michael Moore's ownership of shares in a number of companies he has criticized should be taken with a grain of salt. The ownership of voting shares has become a means used by activists to give equity. Moore used this approach when he was financing the documentary *Roger and Me*, to gain access to a GM shareholders' meeting.

John Nicks, Ottawa

The other side of Kyoto

Many thanks to Steve Much for pointing out that the Kyoto handwagon is loaded with good intentions, and a huge and more than good intention is to be kidding ourselves fully. (This was never a way to save the world.) World, Dec. 5) Since we need to return to living in caves, the hard truth is that we cannot get abundant food from a single energy source. In terms of quantity, density, reliability and cost, the only other currently viable source of energy for a modern world is nuclear power. Fought as it has always been with the problems of accidents and waste disposal, nuclear power is now also fraught with the problem of terrorism. This added risk may make it impossible to increase nuclear power for the foreseeable future. We need, therefore, focus on efficiency, conservation, self-sufficiency, alternate sources and reducing pollution. What about the Kyoto accord? Unfortunately, the cause of multilateralism—no matter how well intentioned

and no matter how dear to Canadian politicians—has been hindered thus advanced when we swap pragmatism with idealism to sign international agreements that we simply cannot honor.

Wayne Joseph Kelly, Cornwall, B.C.

The Kyoto Protocol was a convenient way for governments to appear to be doing something about the so-called greenhouse effect, while not having to face up to environmental problems in their own countries. Most citizens understand that you clean up your own yard before criticizing your neighbour's. In Canada, we have serious environmental problems that have nothing to do with City Toronto. It is a prime example of the country in the name of unity—urban sprawl, automobile garbage, particulate matter, you name it. The Canadians are on someone else's city agreement about global warming that is not even accepted by a large leading environmentalist. Don't look for the Liberal Party of Canada to be open to new possibilities. It has shown in the past that politics trumps everything.

Jerry McPherson, Port Huron, B.C.

Let's stop all the hypocrisy concerning the Kyoto agreement. We are not reducing our greenhouse gas output as a liability we will in the near future. Despite our high opinion of ourselves, human nature is not proactive enough that we best our horses with fire. Whether that fire is in a fireplace or hidden behind a high efficiency furnace, the truth re-

mains that we use the same basic means of generating heat as did prehistoric man. Our vehicles use fire contained in very small and restricted spaces as a means of propulsion. That's how we exist, we burn stuff that creates greenhouse gases. And even if we did decide to burn less stuff, we're exploiting the oil sands to find as we probably can and our sole purpose is to refine oil and sell it to someone else to burn. It's time to stop talking about reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing our consumption and start exploring real energy alternatives that don't rely on combustion.

Joe Shaw, Ottawa

Doggone "It"

Why did you spend time and money writing about the latest waste dog dog? (How much is that pug in the window?) *Buzzard*, Dec. 12) Respected magazine such as yours unfairly ignores responsible trends by focusing that some new dog will be the rage in Hollywood. I long you to instead focus attention on the already existing breeds that may be neglected, suffering, or endangered as a result of people's lack of respect for life or compassion for animals. Please don't make mistakes into shopping impulses because of their fashion status.

Justin Patena, Toronto

A Broadbent oversight

I enjoyed Kenneth Whyte's interview with long-term NDP MP and former leader Ed Broadbent (*Buzzard*, Nov. 25). Broadbent served as a model of political ethics throughout his distinguished 30-year career. In fact, I've always thought he would have made a fine prime minister, had he been wearing different colours. There is, however, one point within the whole theme omitted. One of Broadbent's quotes, which you use in display copy, reads as follows: "Resign as principle." A Liberal cabinet minister would rather go to hell than give up his cabinet post. "Well, sitting in the House of Commons with Broadbent for many long years was Joe Charbon, the Liberal MP for Thunder Bay Superior North. Until six months ago, Charbon was minister of state (Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario). He actually did resign his post rather than follow Paul (The Discourager) Martin's orders to his cabinet on how to vote regarding the controversial same-sex marriage. Not all Liberals operate the same."

Bob Atch, Natick, Ont.

Act 2—and a final curtain



PETER MAHOEY

If you were pointing out that Act 1 of our nation of political drama, you weren't taking it. It was a bit of a "phony war," with the parties and the leaders far too busy trying to out-promise each other on cost, decency, health care, defence—you name it. Most surveys, though, indicated that the majority of Canadians simply weren't interested enough, especially given the time of year, to follow events that closely. That one could stand to see the new headmaster (one attached to a door he was about to knock on, which said simply "Please Not to After Xmas").

So when did they miss? Not that much actually—Paul Martin did not lead his party into a "downward spiral," as one of his top strategists felt he had in the first half of last year's campaign. Among others, he may have the U.S. ambassador in Canada to thank for that. Stephen Harper pushed the one policy movement that did seem to register with most consumers of voting age, and if you don't know which one that is, I'm sorry you're not doing it. Gilles Duceppe followed with not even saying that for him, the election was all about giving his party more than 50 per cent of the Quebec vote so he could claim some kind of independence story—only one, I thought, the vote was about who Qubecers wanted to send to Ottawa. And then there's Jack Layton, who no matter what his speaking stool, seems so to be taping "I hate you, I love you" signs to it all right up and ready for Act 2.

The big difference is the final bit of the campaign will be that the battle will almost certainly get much rougher. So far, the lead MP's speeches and the television ads have been pretty soft, but stay yourself for the halfway point of the ride because someone is bound to get tough soon. The old adage that the first to go negative is the party who so he is the most trouble, is followed by another apparent truth of campaigns—that negative works. It certainly did for Paul Martin in 2003, as fact it was and with pulling them back from the days he was struggling in the final weeks of that campaign. If going aggressive can backfire—the most clear example being the outrage in 1993 that forced the pollster's Commission report focused on John Chisholm's facial features. That, though, was the exception, not the rule, and so if you think this campaign will stay classy-like and full of booming babes, you're not learning from history.

If the Conservative were down to run now,

it would be a tough and Liberal house built to start appearing, trying to top one that "be sure to change" leading to every survey says it on the minds of most voters. At the same time, you can bet the Liberals already have their own attack package ready if the Tories do start to break through, and you can also bet that whatever they launch you will make that ill-advised "bust and popper" remark look pretty tame.

A campaign goes overly negative, even if its winning, runs the risk of turning off voters and driving down election day turnout, which is the last thing the country needs considering it's already at historic lows. But to others, going negative offers an opportunity somewhat akin to what occasionally happens at a Sunday night hockey game. Don Cherry likes to tell the story of writing in time for a shot during what had been, at that point, a rather dull contest, when suddenly a brawl broke out on the ice. Within seconds there was no one left in the lineup—everyone had gone back to their seats to watch

As the campaign moves into high gear, the fight is about to get rougher. It's now accepted wisdom that negative works.

the fireworks. Hockey isn't politics, at least not yet, but perhaps there's a lesson there in reinventing the crowd. Could there be such a thing as constructive negativity?

This column marks my last one for *Maclean's*. I have focus my full energy on my work at the CBC, and specifically our coverage of Act 2. I will, however, be writing columns for the magazine that have been more than a job—they've been a learning experience, from the time I was first asked to write for *Maclean's* to the time when Ed Broadbent, who, shortly after he took over, asked me to stay on as he worked to complete his vision for the new *Maclean's*.

There are a lot of differences between democracy and prize journalism and I don't pretend to have captured, in any significant way, the art form displayed by a number of my past colleagues. My appreciation of their particular skills has only increased with this departure, one for which I am extremely grateful. But most of all, I thank you for making what I've had to say—then has been the great reward of it. *Maclean's* was, in all these years, more than a column, one, an important national institution—and I'm proud to have been here for a little part of it. M

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7 DAYS
A LOOK AT THE NEWS OF THE DAY

GOOD NEWS

Okay—no WMDs

George W. Bush admitted publicly for the first time that each of the intelligence threats to the Iraq war "turned out to be wrong." Bush stopped short of apologizing for the mistakes, but they say the first step toward healing is admitting that you have a problem, and after two years of stonewalling on the failures of the Central Intelligence Agency, the White House has finally taken that step.

King Coal rises again

It seems Cape Breton's long dead coal industry may be in for a resurrection. Swiss-based mining company Xstrata PLC has been selected to develop Dorlin mine near Glace Bay, N.S. The region has a rich mining history, but the last of the colliers that downed four years ago. Rising prices have reignited interest in the sector, and the roughly 300 jobs expected to be created over the next two years represent an enormous boost to one of Canada's most depressed local economies.

Solidarity forever

With polls forecasting minority governments for the foreseeable future, recent glomings of a co-operative spirit between the Conservatives and New Democrats are encouraging. While the two parties represent opposite ends of the political spectrum, they moved in concert to bring an end to the Liberal "mandate" last month. And now Stephen Harper is meeting with federal government leaders with the NDP in Toronto to discuss on such issues as health care and military spending (and possibly foreign aid). The parties also have common agendas on ethical, parliamentary and democratic reform. Even if the motives behind this go deeper than partisan gain, it's a welcome sign of civility in parliamentary life.

SMARTIE-PANTS GRADE SIXERS, PENNY-PINCHING QUEBECERS, AND ONE SERIOUSLY DELUDED IRANIAN PRESIDENT

BAD NEWS

Smartie-pants

Elementary school students in Windsor, Ont., June applied their Grade 6 math skills to dispel Nestlé's insinuation advertising claim that Canadians can't feed enough Smarties each year to circle the Earth 100 times. After some hefty number crunching, the students found that, in fact, the four billion Smarties consumed by Canadians annually

Katrina's shame

In the wake of hurricane Katrina, the Economist ran a picture of disheveled black women with the headline "America's Shame." Its additional finger wagged about the "shedding truth" of the U.S.'s binary racial divide. This put the magazine in league with the rapper Kanye West, who famously proclaimed that "George Bush doesn't care about black people."

columnist. The president she mentioned that Iraq's nuclear program is full-blown ahead. Canada, on the other hand, the magazine labelled the president's over-claims "unacceptable to the Canadian people." Maybe Kanye West could write us some diplomacy.

Penny-pinchers

Quebec is a cheap society. The average charitable donation among taxpayers in that province was \$14.2 last year, less than half the national average of \$31.5, according to a study by the Fraser Institute. But there's not much discussion Quebec's number as might appear at first glance. The average donation south of the border was US\$1,711, more than three times the Canadian figure (even after adjusting for currency).

Birdbrains

Last week, News Canada reported that due to low family mass and the aging of baby boomers, seniors are on their way to outnumbering children in Canada. In credit to news, this week's *Newsweek* contradicted that. The *Newsweek* Book of Facts at No. 2 in the non-fiction category.

More on media

When the University of Toronto appointed three women to top positions in its medicine and law schools and University College, the Toronto Star's front page story quoted Michelle Landreberg, a 1942 alumna, as insisting that the women "allowed to attend graduate school because the war was 'a woman and a job.' Ernest Rutherford, who Jewish was graduate studies did on during the 1940s, and perhaps that statement doesn't correspond to the facts—there was no woman—other woman or Jew." Landreberg didn't return calls. ■



NOT QUITE MIA STUFF: Her acknowledging bad intelligence is a start

would only circle the globe once. Furthermore, Nestlé's claim that that packaging will be needed in the new year. And here we thought Grade 6 students needed, but not Smarties.

Honest facts

Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia compiled entirely by anonymous volunteers, has been criticized lately for putting a bogus entry claiming that U.S. journalist John Seigenthaler Jr., a former aide to Robert Kennedy, may have been involved in both Kennedy assassinations. Yet according to the British comedian Natasia, science articles in Wikipedia are roughly as accurate as those found in *Encyclopedia Britannica*. It's and large, the WMD model works—people are generally honest and know where to look for more than one might expect.

It now appears the race card was directly employed. Statistics released by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals suggest whites died at the highest rate of all races in New Orleans. At 28.8 per cent of the population, they constituted 26.6 per cent of the fatalities. Racism is shaping up as a journalistic cause to hype, too. All those reports of thugs shooting at helicopters, and children having their clothes set weren't true either.

Mush-mouth redux

Only six days ago, *Newsweek* attributed, world class fanatic and president of Israel, Ariel Sharon, science articles in Wikipedia are roughly as accurate as those found in *Encyclopedia Britannica*. It's and large, the WMD model works—people are generally honest and know where to look for more than one might expect.



A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

The doors of Rideau Hall were wide open on Sunday as Their Excellencies hosted the inaugural Christmas party. Part holiday celebration and part self-improvement opportunity, the fête was to feature carolers, harpist Louise Robitaille and the Jubal Youth Chorus. Chef and gardener gave tips on holiday entertaining, and a video booth gave visitors an opportunity to send Christmas wishes to overseas members of the Canadian Forces. Best of all, clones created vineyard balloon sculptures.

DISCOVERY

Canada: ozone shame

Although destructive levels of stratospheric chlorine are declining, damaged scientists believe it will take 15 years longer to stabilize the Earth's protective ozone layer than earlier predicted. The culprit is the U.S. and Canada, when documented levels of CFCs continue from old air conditioning and refrigeration equipment. Other countries, including the developing world, have seen better progress.

Time warp

Clocks are "paper" became a reality last week when the concept ruler Citizen T-100 Co. and E-life Corp. demonstrated flat clocks (1 in wide and 3 mm thick) so that they can be bent. The "papers," a complex plastic, use 20 times less power than LCD displays and, unlike LCDs, embedded in bright light.



CLCSC: Complex plastic

Keeping cancer away

The risk of a recurrence of breast cancer could be slashed by 64 percent, thanks to the drug letrozole, a breast-thickening treatment. The drug, known commercially as Femara, could be used up to five years after a breast cancer patient has completed chemotherapy with tamoxifen.

Stimulating walking

Patients with spinal cord injuries may be able to walk better, thanks

to "functional electrical stimulation," which sends bursts of electricity into leg muscles. This helps them to move walking speed and stride length. Developed at the University of Toronto, the process helped five test patients including one woman who was able to step using a full leg brace.

Sensitive teeth

Marine scientists may have solved the mystery of why the narwhal has a unicorn-like "tusk." It is actually a highly sensitive tooth, faced with 30 million receptors that analyze water temperature, pressure, and particles in water given off by prey.

Tsunami dead zone

Scientists diving at the epicentre of last week's massive tsunami have made a shocking discovery: a dead zone on the sea floor that is devoid of life. Dalhousie University scientist Ross O'Dair said that marine life should have recolonized the seabed faster. "It's unprecedented," he said.

WILD KINGDOM

The school enters

Goose have entered the walls of a school that was being renovated in Riverview, Ontario. A disappointed Mayor Cosentino Negró said the noise on construction crews who should have guarded the walls' polystyrene panels from the geese and in error could be applied to seal the walls. "It's the builders' fault," Negró said. "A goose is just a goose."

How dogs laugh

The noisy fans of playing dogs may have found their standard means to be laughter. According to a U.S. animal behaviorist, Patricia Pankse, says the sound has a pronounced calming effect on other dogs. She used recorders of the sound to send prissy poodles in Spokane, Wash., animal shelter.



Desk-bound snake

Terrified cops in the Philippines destroyed a police station desk infested with rattlesnakes, where a python had taken refuge. Area residents had brought the snake in by hand when it was found near a fast-food shop, but the snake broke free and hid up in a policeman's desk. The snake was later handed over to zoo officials.

Pill-popping monkeys

Instead of chomping their way into food items their neighbors, scientists in Devon, England, have taught colobus monkeys to take their medication by presenting themselves at the cage bars and opening their mouths. The benefit, says an expert, is much less stress both for the monkeys and their keepers.

MORTALITY

Pandemic: the game

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control is turning to computer games to prepare health warriors and other "first responders" for an influenza pandemic. Working with the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Chicago Department of Public Health, the CDC is developing games that simulate health-related emergencies, such as bio-terror and anthrax. Says one health care official, "It gets away from death by PowerPoint."

Mass attacks

A 40-year-old Englishman suffered 34 heart attacks in 20 minutes.

PHOTO: Center and left: Jeff

uses, each time the animal stopped feeding. Doctors meant to repeatedly hit with electric shock. Leslie Mackenzie suffered substantial burns to his chest from the electrodes used to revive him. A cardiologist said last week that it's not unknown for someone to suffer as many attacks so frequently. Last month, another British man endured 28 heart attacks in one day.

Coke and Parkinson's

Using cocaine can leave the brain vulnerable to toxins that can lead to the onset of Parkinson's disease. A new study suggests that one consequence of using the drug is the development of neurotoxicity, leaving the brain more exposed to further damage by MPTP, an industrial chemical that often sets off Parkinson's and is recognized as a cause of Parkinson's.

POLL WATCH

Self-inflicted rage

A third of British motorists admit to accelerating to road rage and damaging their own vehicles. A survey conducted by an auto dealer found that one-in-five motorists drive away off the road, slam doors and hit or kick their cars, or increase momentum to break a car window with her hand. The study concluded that bashing one's own wheels is, everything, a growing trend. Perhaps it's because a third of the drivers said they fit better the behaviors.



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know you're being naughty and nice...

Yes, and my big book with everyone's name in it. He does quite a bit. He was uncertain, at first, about how big I was. He had no sort of medium-sized, dwarfish. By the end of his career (from 1960s he has me as an adult). But the lovely face, the wide, beaming, bearded face, it's all there. He took earlier years that I was an Arctic dweller and actually found me at the North Pole. He's not the first to go into a cave, but he is the first to show the sort of home working atmosphere that I have up at the North Pole. An interesting moment in his life was talking to children on the telephone.

One of the roles you've played over the years has been that empty gift giver but something of a quasi-parental figure, keeping children in line, keeping their consciences of good and bad, to that amusing you're comfortable with?

Yeah, I do remind children there is a difference between right and wrong and there are consequences to those actions, but that's less so in time past on. I tried to accommodate myself to parental norms. When the witch [as punishment] was literally used early in the 19th century, I was quite prepared to do

of the year. One of the most useful things, often overlooked by social historians, is that I allow parents to be generous at Christmas and to be clearly the sort of the year. I show them that you can express your love through giving at Christmas but still try to teach kids responsibility and self-reliance at other times.

He's also involved with social and political issues. How many has been appropriated over the years by all kinds of causes, from where autonomy to...

...the Sovietist/Soviet School movement, the Viet Cong, the Nazis. But it's not always me, you know?

Does this unauthorized use of your image do you harm?

A It certainly does, but it also opens to how important I am in the world. When, for example, the KKK was used in that way, it was their way of recognizing the fact that I stand for tolerance and decent human behaviour, even though that's hypocritical on their part. When the Viet Cong drew down propaganda brochures to found by American troops in Vietnam to wreck their morale, it was acknowledgement of just how big a role I play in the fabric of American culture. So, while I certainly am not happy to see myself used by the Nazis, nonetheless it's kind of a backhanded compliment.

You've also been a great spokesman over the years. In fact, you were probably the original commercial spokesman, long before Ronald McDonald, Betty Crocker, or all of those other I mean, you were it?

I'm still it. I pretty much dwarf—pun intended—all the rest of these characters come lately. Yeah, I was the first. I'm still the most powerful, and the most universally used. I would say I don't drink there's my kind of good or service that I haven't been used to portray. Not always with my permission, though. The Brazilian edition of *Playboy* magazine, for example, put me on the cover, and the Santa's helpers all across Brazil protested and started wearing black arm bands on their forearms to protest. There's scarcely a day I haven't been accused with, I'm afraid.

I've told you once did a campaign with Coca-Cola, before my time, that was a particular bit. In fact, it's a legend in the marketing industry. Can you tell me about it?

Sure. In the 1920s Coca was undergoing a lot of attacks from the Women's Christian Temperance Union—very correctly, they didn't like all that coffee—and there was a U.S. senator who claimed that Coca-Cola caused sterility in women and affected brain power. So Coca-Cola was looking around for something to lighten up its image, so make it more wholesome, less medicinal, and something that would encourage soft-drink consumption during the winter. The company hired a commercial artist, Haddon Sundblom, who did magnificent paintings from the '30s to the '60s. He really captured my expressiveness, the richness of my fur, my folds of fat, my jolly. These ads are interesting because they portray Santa not only as a deliverer of goods but actually as a consumer. If you look at these ads, I'm always portrayed going through somebody else's refrigerator, you know, or playing with their toys.

In addition to all of these other careers, you've also had a wonderful run on the silver screen. If you don't mind me saying so, some of the films were better than others. What are the highlights and what are the low points?

Well, I take pride in the fact that almost **'Not all the Christmas songs portray me in a favourable light. Some allege a drunk driving episode that never happened. Absolutely not. Lies, all lies!'**

as soon as cinema was invented I was chosen to be one of the subjects, so I started off in the 1890s and continue to the present day. The high points would be, for me, *Miracle on 34th Street*...

What was special about that one?

Oh, it's the story of a department store Santa who may or may not really be real, and he teaches a very skeptical, hardened child and her mother the importance of the intangible or the intangible, of belief and vulnerability, in a world where the material and consuming is for too predominant.

This is a little tangent, but it's also a hard one for department store Santas, isn't it? You must feel some sympathy for them—all these rules that have kind of set in...

Q...clauses rather than on Santa's lap, and...

Yes, Santa's hands have to be visible at all times. [Sigh.] It's dreadful. It's all part of a sadly heightened paranoia about things real. Did you see an airline recently was requesting male passengers not to sit next to unaccompanied children?

That's the world we live in.

Yes.

Going back to movies: Some that you'd rather me have appeared in?

Well, Santa Claus Conquers the Martians was all concerned, let's put it that way. Apparently Martians children had been watching Earth TV and had learned of my existence



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'Parents use me in a number of ways. I allow them to be generous at Christmas and thrifty the rest of the year.'

liver some of these. At nine past one, and peering because so late, I have pretty much abandoned that, and by the 19th century I'm very nonpareil. But that doesn't mean I'm not useful to parents. They still use me in a number of ways to distinguish various mas-



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and so focus on *Merry Christmas*, we took one day. Luckily I was able to save the day, but it was a difficult piece of work. All the Santa Claus or similar stories—these we're pretty bad, and there's no end of them. Apparently the night of the one on television last year becoming our memories. Who knew? Television movies are also pretty bad. One of the worst is a Canadian CBC production called *Meet the Santa*—apparently one of the most expensive CBC productions ever. It's a silly idea that Santa isn't just a story but when he gets old and cruddy but has to be sent to the Santa Claus.

A cruel fate, isn't it? A little humiliating. It's another festive story you've had in the music industry. There have been so many Christmas songs written about you and welcoming you.

True, but not all of them portray me in a favorable light. Some depict a drunk driving episode that never happened.

Which one was that? Santa Got a DWI. In the Santa Claus movie *Driving While in Toyland*.

Don't happen? Absolutely not. Lie, all! My name has also been taken, well, not quite in vain, because I do have a similar idea, but the idea and your version of the material world has been using Santa Claus as a symbol for sin and good times.

What songs are there? Oh, Santa Baby. For example. Santa Claus *Went Down Love*, Santa Claus *Got Stuck in My Christmas*.

And you sound okay with that. Well, I'm a married man, I know the attraction of the opposites.

Do you have an idea for a new song? I don't, really. I don't think there's a really great Santa song the way there are great Christmas songs or great Christmas movies. Like the ones like *Home Alone* or the like. Santa Claus is Coming to Town, and his version of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, but there hasn't been a real classic piece of Santa Claus music the way there have been classic Santa books and pictures and the like.

Is it true you were located in Florida not long ago?

Oh, in effigy, certainly. Yes, several times. You see, there is currently a struggle for the soul of Christmas. There always has been. Christmas has been a topic of negotiation for the past 2,000 years. It is always getting reinvented and reinvented, but this is one of the harder periods for both Santa and Christmas. We're coming under fire from secular fundamentalists who want to clear religion out of the public sphere altogether, and at the same time we're coming under attack by religious fundamentalists—directly of the Calvinist persuasion—who see Christmas

as pagan and idolatrous, and was representing all kinds of evil forces, including even the arch and evil ones. It's all quite, quite, quite serious, but occasionally I'm provoked, and there are anti-Santa lyrics written looking out to the dreamers, which is a bit of a cheap shot. "The devil has a demon, his name is Santa Claus." (Sigh.)

That's not fair at all. Let me read something that will lift your spirits. It's an editorial from the old New York Sun replying to a question from a young female reader and, personally, I think it's the most dignified stuff ever been written of its kind. It goes like this: "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. As, how dreary would be the world if they were not Santa Claus. It would be a dreary as if there were no Virginia. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence." You're familiar with those words?

Oh, God bless Francis Pharos Church—he was the editorial writer—and bless little Virginia O'Hanlon, who wrote to him in 1897. You, they're wonderful words. They really do seem up one of the important reasons for my continued popularity, which is the beauty of the sentimental and the immaterial. "Only faith, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the super and beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding." Yeah, that's absolutely the truth.

Looking toward the future, what must we persist in terms of keeping Santa Claus central to Christmas, or is children or parents?

Parents. Santa Claus is something that is actually important to parents, because they can express their love in a way that demands no reciprocity. It's sort of

re-creating the old Christmas concept of grace, of unconditional love. It gives children so much more than simply the gifts. Santa brings them wonder and magic, a heightened sense of the passage of time. It ties families together. And even when children come to an age in which they're not prepared to believe in an age in which, most often—overwhelmingly so—they become part of the unrequited occupancy that passes on from parents to children. It's very seldom we are able to give to children something they think they know about Santa or that Santa is the kids that are younger than they are.

Can I ask you just a few quick practical questions? Sure. Nobody has always enjoyed. Very few characters, but then, as St. Nicholas

and my predecessors were, we're very devoted about getting into all kinds of places.

How? Through windows, doors, keyholes. So you can manage. Oh yeah, there's no problem. There's always been some confusion in my household about what kind of coach to have you.

Well, I like an ethnic variety. In England I am used to be left with a pair and a horse.



'This is one of the hardest periods for both Santa and Christmas. We're coming under fire from both secular and religious fundamentalists.'

glass of cherry I get cold beer down in Australia. When I'm in this part of the world, I'm very partial to cookies and milk, particularly shortbread.

Do you have a favourite redneck? No. No, I must never show my favouritism at all. But don't forget the carmen for the reindeer.

Do you expect a busy Christmas day? Always. No end in sight. My club—I may call it that—is spreading about the world. There are more believers, and more and more requests every year.

You're here a wonderful guest. Thank you very much.

My pleasure. Merry Christmas, Ken. Ho, ho, ho.

ON THE WEB Find an excerpt from Santa Claus. A Biography. www.meredith.com/santa



PEACE ON EARTH?

They kept it civil, but there was a lot of tension, and a lot at stake, in the first round of the debates



PAUL WELLS

And then the clouds parted, the stars dropped, and through the curtain of fog gathering over our Canadians spied something so rare and beautiful they were dazed, in first, whether it might only be a mirage.

It might only be a mirage. But it was not. On the table, angry voices dissolved into silence. Will Scott McEwen, as they say. The man who would lead the country into a new era in the direction of the setting sun and landed in Vancouver, gateway

to Global Climate, where ordinary people—Dorothy from Orlia, Doris from Winnipeg, Gary in the middle of a well-worned gun shop—were allowed to give the great men and the candidates, who had spent 17 months across the globe and in the first round of the debate every weekday at 3:15 (10:15 on Friday), found in them some of the clarity of existence.

They kept a proper tongue. They did not interrupt. Across the country, grateful people unshackled the eyes of small children. It was okay to watch again.

Let's just never let this campaign end. On second thought, yeah, you're right, it can't last. Even during Thursday's and Friday's incoherent debates, the winner of recent elections could easily be pulled back to reveal something that looked too regulated or artificial to be entirely credible. More like Singapore, perhaps. If the leaders didn't interrupt one another it was because their microphones were on a wall when they spoke the designated speaker. The real people, with their words or

silent questions, only seemed to be speaking underneath in first, in the English language debate, but then McQueen kept reminding us, their questions had been selected from among 11,000 submissions—by the same youth-oriented organizations that accept you to decide who gets asked. We're still the gatekeepers, folks. Can't be helped.

And if the leaders debated mostly in calm and civil tones, they're still only humans. They still found plenty of ways to embarrass one another, with the embarrassing personal that comes with their conversations, their errors.

How several people whose faces I recognized in the English-language debate came when Jacques Desjardins, who is working hard to drag Quebecers into their third round of breaking constitutional crisis (but, if you want the 1990s Charles Taylor version), dove himself up to his full height and lectured Stephen Harper on the subject of same-sex marriage. "We already had a free vote on that, so I think we shouldn't have a free vote on that one that was resolved every six months. That was de-

clined, and I think we have to live with that."

Jack Layton, the NDP leader, who needed a strong performance (remember that? Any one? Any one?) and by many accounts delivered one, pleaded to many times for "more NDP MPs" that he may have been going to send his nonconformist party to make him stop asking.

In spite of Harper, sick of being told he has a hidden agenda, drifted into one more information mode, laying out his agenda in so much detail he could not be accused of hiding anything. "A Conservative government will change policies in Ottawa, Ottawa's starting with the GST, check down on crime, bring in a patient guarantee for well times in health care, support patients directly with the care of child care, new standards, and, without, small businesses, seniors, and rework our arrival forces." Deep breath. At one point, going by suggestions he'd forgotten his conclusion?

GETTING SOMEBODY ELSE TO SPEAK FOR HIM WAS A LAST RESORT. Desjardins, who is working hard to drag Quebecers into their third round of breaking constitutional crisis (but, if you want the 1990s Charles Taylor version), dove himself up to his full height and lectured Stephen Harper on the subject of same-sex marriage. "We already had a free vote on that, so I think we shouldn't have a free vote on that one that was resolved every six months. That was de-

clined, and I think we have to live with that." Harper rattled off the names of four of them, spoke of a very late. See? He does know people. Eventually.

There was Paul Martin. He has proved to be a survivor of nothing else, and he showed up again and again ready for battle, like Stephen Harper in one of the later Rocky movies—TV perhaps, at maybe 5. Several times on the tour the Liberal leader has made a flourish out of what might be called the Charest technique, after the manner young John Charest used to employ when he was in federal politics: when a strong argument was delivered, usually in a way that was not a surprise for all of us, just a strong argument for the forces.

Probably the strongest moment for Martin, in terms of pure showmanship anyway, came on the file that has so often seemed to be fiddle him the Quebec question. The seven showed ordinary Canadian Don McIntyre, standing outside in the snow in the winter, Oor, asking a question dear to the writer's heart: how could the federal government respond to an attempt by the Quebec government to sue and enforce a unilateral declaration of independence?

It's the kind of question and entirely question for politicians to answer on. Most who do, including Harper, have decided they do not want to depress Quebec voters by talking about it. "I don't obviously want to go so far down the path as this particular voter's asking," Harper said, before reminding everyone of Liberal competence.

The right answer, incidentally, is in any province that attempts an unconstitutional secession, the federal government is obligated by the Constitution to do its job and to simply keep governing. It then falls to the provincial governments, not only to ignore the law, but actually to try to usurp federal authority, by unilaterally declaring independence, and then to try to force the federal government to recognize its independence. And if the federal government is forced to recognize its independence, it is forced to recognize its independence. And if the federal government is forced to recognize its independence, it is forced to recognize its independence.

Martin, the Layton and Desjardins, needed to briefly as he could to understand law, before finding it was time for Charest's moment. "This is my country and my children were born and raised in Quebec," he told Desjardins. "And you're going to say to them and say that you're going to find some backbone and I'm taking my country or finding Quebecers if against Quebec family. We do have an opportunity, and Quebecers understand this, to build a country which is without parallel." He continued in the same manner for some

time. "And you're not going to win. Mr. Desjardins. Let me tell you that."

Most obviously, Martin's answer was neither similar to his proposed ban on handgun use nor similar to the House of Commons Bill That Dine. But it made an exciting news clip in a debate that was, as the change of the hyper-caffeinated press gallery, custom designed to provide very few exciting clips.

The headline making news from the debate—sorry in biggest not so much—was relying on the five-year headlines—was Harper's continued attempts to clarify his base by opposing same-sex marriage while forwarding arguments that he is living socially backward. The Conservative leader has returned frequently to this country, never happily, but knowing he must define himself on the issue of the Liberals will be happy to define him.

He opened the campaign by restoring the Conservative promise of a free parliamentary vote on gay marriage. On Thursday in French he said he would not use the Conservative's non-binding promise to override gay rights—if Parliament does hold a free vote,

Sick of the hidden agenda talk, Harper went into too-much-information mode

and if a majority of MPs (led by whom would certainly be a minority government) do vote to use the signature same-sex marriage, and if a court does decide that same rights must trump Parliament's will. In effect, the Conservative leader is setting up a chain of what is so long and tricky that in some cases the problem would simply go away and Conservatives would have to admit they could not repeal the fact of same-sex marriage. He is setting up the chain of what is so long and tricky that in some cases the problem would simply go away and Conservatives would have to admit they could not repeal the fact of same-sex marriage.

Martin, speaking on Thursday of Harper's non-renewing campaign, attacked him for a on Friday. The Liberal's problems that, while he attacks the Conservative for being backward, he actually supports his time and upbringing who can not bring his self to say he thinks it is a good thing for gay men and lesbians to share the benefits of marriage. So he has to be thicker of course than most.

"It is the responsibility of the prime minister to defend the Charter of Rights," Martin said. "And the prime minister cannot pick and choose rights that he happens to like or ones that he doesn't happen to like. He must defend all rights." When he talks like this, Martin looks like a dealer whose rights he doesn't happen to like and which he would rather reject in the absence of a Charter.

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NATIONAL

Whether Layton, warden of wooden, acutely awakens to talk about gay people. His concern is frankly defending real people consistently makes Martin's constitutional arguments seem like the shallow dodge they are. The question that sparked Friday's exchange on same-sex marriage came from Pat Williams of Ottawa, whose daughter-in-law was in bed down with her same-sex partner. Harper and Martin

Harper poked, Layton prodded, and when all else failed, Martin just kept swinging for the fences

seemed well clear of it and Layton and Layton gave their answers. Layton was more gently.

"Well, first of all, I can feel the pride in your voice as you speak about your daughter and your hopes for her in the future," the NDP leader said. He oriented himself "very proud that the NDP was able to stand strongly in the House" for gay rights.

It was a role the NDP leader was able to play all night—the role he says he played in the last Parliament and the one he wants to play in the next, as the peacemaker and author of Liberal purges. He played that role most effectively in calling Martin out on the Liberal leader's jaw-dropping attempt to lecture the U.S. government about environmental denials. On the substance, it is worth reiterating that Canada's greenhouse-gas emissions have risen far more rapidly than the Americans', despite Canada's clean reputation of the

Kyoto accord. Martin has about as much right to lecture the American on environmental propriety as he would to worry about their national unity or the quality of their late-night talk show hosts: he's in a glass house.

"What we've seen from Mr. Martin is the picking of phony battles. And you know, when you pick a phony battle, you're going to have to deal with the consequences," Layton said. "It's happening for you to be picking your fights as the Liberals when you don't deliver on your own promises for the environment."

The polls tell us the election has been here in November, a phenomenon that, like quiet debates, leaves voters undecided as to their parties. (Privately, the more sophisticated pollsters have been rattling reports that polls rarely show a real movement in the early days of a campaign. The vertiginous collapse of the Liberal vote in the early days of the 2004 campaign should, in this context, be seen as more of an exception than the rule.)

But there's already a lot going on in this campaign. Harper has been disappointing portions of the Conservative base—the policy mavens, evangelicals—with a tonalistic campaign of cautious, plodding progress. Martin is trying for a more run every time he gets to bat, and while it is an ungainly spectacle, it would be premature to assume he won't connect with one of the wild swings. Layton delves about as well as he could during the conference. He has had, so far, to remind Canadians that he's still there. And the appeal is the tough led on the street corner that nobody is able to do today. They only look onto the outside. There is so much tension in this first constellation of leaders, so much at stake, that they cannot remain tranquil for long. The hole in the side of civility that closed 2005 will soon seem only a faint memory. ■



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DAMN AMERICANS

Why our politicians love to hate those bastards, but then always back down

BY TONY BELIER • American ambassador to Canada David Wilkins comes from swampy South Carolina, so he presumably knows a little folk wisdom about quicksand. Quick-sand Rule Number 1: the harder you struggle, the deeper you sink. Rule Number 2: to avoid sinking to your death (Rule Number 3, don't wait too quicksand. Maybe he just forgot.

It all started two weeks ago, when Prime Minister Paul Martin took over very public shots at the Bush administration over global warming—criticisms meant to sway Canadian voters, not White House policy. But if the Americans chose to respond, giving him a stage on which to re-enact a kindergarten anti-American poster, so much the better.

Wilkins saw the quicksand and jumped in with both feet. "It may be smart election year politics to thumb your chest and constantly criticize your friend and then No. 1 trading partner," he said in a pointed speech last Tuesday. "But this is a slippery slope." A slope Martin was only too happy to ride. The Prime Minister gave a detailed rebuttal in the polls after Wilkins's remarks and his response: "I am not going to be derailed by...made headlines."

Even Stephen Harper called Wilkins's intervention "an appropriate," adding, "I don't think foreign ambassadors should be expressing their views or intervening in our day-to-day." That's diplomatically "sharp." Prime Minister. The Liberals love to announce that Harper is not pro-American, so an election where Martin gets to act as if he's winning against George W. Bush cannot help Harper.

But winning against the U.S. President, and more generally against the United States, is not a new idea, nor is it uniquely Canadian. America is the superpower, after all, and what better way to denigrate your coverage and independence than by standing up to the biggest kid on the block? And the more powerful America becomes, or is seen to become, the more value some may find in



INTO THE QUICKSAND • Ambassador David Wilkins warned against too much close-quandring.

belonging. Gerhard Schröder won the German election in 2002 by criticizing Bush as his opponent. The strategy was so successful that he trotted it out again this year, and nearly reversed the chances of his left, despite earning the campaign for behind in the polls. Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won a landslide victory in the 2002 presidential election in part by attacking the Free Trade Area of the Americas as a kind of American plot. In France, scoring someone of wanting to introduce

United States, because when the economy slows go, political independence is sure to follow." That was only 17 years ago, and yet Harper's words, so resonant then, sound hysterical today. For Liberals, they are an embarrassment, long forgotten. The only criticism the current Liberal leader has of free trade is that more of it would be a good idea.

The change in Canadian attitudes may have something to do with the change in Canada's economic position. Canadians once worried that foreigners, especially Americans, would buy up our resources and resources. Instead, the opposite has happened. In 2005, according to Statistics Canada, foreign direct investment in Canada, primarily from the United States, was worth \$190 billion. But Canadian ownership of foreign companies and the U.S. remain the most popular place for us to invest—has for years both growing at an even faster rate, and is now worth \$433 billion. Canadians own more of the world than the world owns of Canada. And as a Maclean's poll earlier this year discovered, most Canadians believe that closer border security and anti-terrorism co-operation with the U.S. are a good thing, at least in principle, and no threat to Canada's independence.

Though Ambassador Wilkins is no expert on this country, he's right about this much: hating the American bear cub any than "less electoral benefit." Paul Martin will not be the last Canadian politician to confuse an American threat that he can visibly and visibly appear to be standing up to—and then, after the election, do his best to stand down. ■

Martin's United States-bashing was meant to sway Canadian voters, not White House policy

an "Anglo-Saxon" economic model as a serious charge is increasing Canadian politicians of wanting to introduce "American-style" health care.

But if Martin's squibbly with Wilkins seemed somehow empty—more shadow-boxing than substantive disagreement—don't be so sure. The tenor of our fights with the U.S., and the nature of our fears about our neighbor, have changed a lot over the years. In a heated TV debate during the 1980 free trade election, Liberal leader John Turner accused Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of denigrating Canada "with one signature of the pen." The Free Trade Agreement, insisted Turner, "will reduce us, I am sure, to a colony of the

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Just getting in the way?

Abductions in Iraq have given Christian Peacemakers a higher profile, but that's not helping their cause

BY CHARLIE GILLIAN • They draw inspiration from the Book of Acts, their guiding philosophy from the words of Christ. But listen long enough to members of the Christian Peacemaker Teams and you'll soon hear echoes of another aspect of non-violence scripture: Mahatma Gandhi believed antagonists would find their way toward peaceful solutions if shown a path of non-violence—*ahimsa*—however, might means standing in an aggressor's gun sights. Some 66 years hence, Rebecca Johnson, a 43-year-old Canadian who has served the organization in the West Bank area of Palestine, takes the same tack when confronting army soldiers. "We resist a different way of thinking into the script, one where somebody sits there while they're doing it wrong and illegal," she says when she's being escorted by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Peacemakers also have offices in Chicago. "We put ourselves in the way."

This is more than mere testimony to the durability of Gandhi's ideas. In their 21-year history, the Christian Peacemaker Teams have joined the Indian leader's teachings to Christian faith and modern notions of international peacemaking. In doing so, they've defied a kind of "Third Way" of non-violent intervention, inserting themselves in conflicts around the world to protect the innocent, while espousing what they see as social injustices behind the disputes. After the part about standing in someone's gun sights, well, the Peacemakers have demonstrated something close to martyrdom. In Israel's occupied lands, they've suffered in their signature red ball caps to shield Palestinian children from the gunfire of rocket-wielding soldiers in the mountains of northern Colombia, they've helped score villagers' residents had severely abused to rights won from paramilitaries.

Now, after the abduction of four team

members in Iraq, including two Canadians, the group faces a question that go to the heart of its mission: In whose way? (Note the Christian intervention on a country already suspicious of Western interference.) And was it reasonable to think that agents of change in Iraq would use the group any differently than they do other "Westerners"? "I think abduction is eclipsing common sense here," says Thomas Homer-Dixon, director of the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Toronto and an adviser of the Peacemakers' work in other theatres. The passive-resistance model can serve in many circumstances, he says, "but you have to be discerning about where you put it and the kind of thing Iraq and the Sudan Triangle is probably about the worst place for it in the world."

In fact, moral risk was supposed to be part of the group's original work: its creation following the 1964 Montreux World Conference in Strasbourg, France. There, with the Cold War as its political backdrop, American author and theologian Ron Sider delivered a fiery speech arguing Christian pacifism is meaningless unless "we are ready to die by

the thousands in a militant, rigorous new program for peace and justice." Sider's apocalyptic vision never came to pass. The 1960s peace brigade he inspired now boasts about 40 full-time and 150 reserve members, far from the thousands he was prepared to sacrifice. But Sider's notions of justice have proven pivotal to the group's identity. By aligning themselves with minority populations fighting the cause or its proxies around the world, the Peacemakers have become darlings of North American liberals who share the same causes. In Israel, they've won applause by siding with Palestinian against Jewish settlers in West Bank lands. In Canada, they've supported Aboriginals in their battle against fisheries officers over lobster in Miramichi Bay, and over B.C. lands now ended to tourism.

So when the Peacemakers decided to go to Iraq in October 2002, support in their home countries was strong. No one imagined them breaking peace in such a volatile conflict, but many U.S. liberals saw them as still winners to the action itself, noting the harm posed by their danger to the movements of Western media. Trouble is, in Iraq, military players on the ground in Iraq shared this perception. "American forces, the Peacemakers were one more obstacle to quickly achieving military objectives. Some insurgents, it seems, saw them as moderate Christians in a Muslim land. And to the extent that people who were the insurgents, the Peacemakers were walking dollar signs."

This is now the best guess as to why kidnapping might have snatched up the current abductees: Jon Loney, 41, of Toronto; Thomas Sooden, 34, of Montreal; Norman Karcher, 74, of Louisville and Tim Fox, 54, of New Brunswick. The four men were left in the hands of an underground group calling itself the Swords of Righteousness Brigade, which is now demanding the release of Iraqi prisoners held by the U.S. But there's good reason to think the

abductees were actually freedom fighters who turned the man over for cash. "A lot of the kidnappers are essentially criminal gangs," says Homer-Dixon, whose estimate has won several representatives in Iraq. "These aren't groups that are reachable through some sort of dialogue about social good. They are motivated by greed, money, profit and greed."

They certainly couldn't have cared much about the Peacemakers' work. More than any other position Iraq, the organization has imprisoned itself in an opponent of the U.S. occupation, working tirelessly to help Iraqi families and documenting cases of abuse by U.S. soldiers. Since the kidnapping became public, the country's largest Sunni political party, as well as a group of prominent Muslim clerics, have called for the Christians' release. One Palestinian newspaper on Arab television, recalling the Peacemakers' role in securing his own freedom from an Israeli jail.

Conversely, the crisis has acted a flurry of

Here's why I like it,' said Rush Limbaugh. 'I like it any time a bunch of leftist, feel-good hand-wringers are shown reality.'

attention in the right wing blogosphere in the United States—along with plain abuse of the Peacemakers on the airwaves. "Here's why I like it," said talk-show host Rush Limbaugh last week, in one widely played segment. "This is anything but a bunch of whining, feel-good hand-wringers are shown reality."

The Peacemakers were dismayed by the characterization. "I know there's a tendency to slot people into these political categories," says Johnson, who shared administrative du-



ABDUCTED CANADIANS THOMAS SOODEN, 34, (left) and JON LONEY, 41, (right)

ties in the Peacemakers' Canadian offices. Loney said he was abducted. "I think it's a disservice to all of us." But they also face criticism from more credible critics, who say the kidnapping exposed the weakness of the group's peacemaking model when applied to the ugliest modern conflict in Iraq. David Cameron, an expert on peacemaking at Carlson University in Ontario, says there's a place for impartial groups in how to move against oppression and abuse. "The problem in Iraq is figuring out who's doing the targeting," he says. "I know you separate those actively engaged in violence from ordinary citizens. It's extremely difficult for the U.S. military to do that, let alone peace activists."

The incident has also led a quiet sense that the abduction have brought Peacemakers exactly the recognition Sider envisioned. As much coverage of the crisis proliferated, the organization reported a surge of inquiries from people interested in joining the group. A representative from the Peacemakers' China office, which coordinates recruitment and training, said many of the calls, emails and letters to its website came from people who merely wished to donate. And the group proposes that it can fully screen candidates, training them rigorously before deciding where they are best deployed (one member who was scheduled to join the Peacemakers' delegation in Iraq was left behind because he was deemed unsuitable for the environment, officials say).

But the jump in interest highlights the Peacemakers' dilemma, which may explain their attempts to keep quiet. Their organization was forged around calls for an army of pacifists, each chosen by faith to make the ultimate sacrifice. The marching recruits no because serve a lot less noble when their blood might actually be spilled. And the recent abductions raise questions as to whether their presence in Iraq is undermining their goals. Yes, Gandhi raised against violence in all its forms, but he also described non-cooperation with evil as "assured day." However you interpret those words, it's safe to assume that stepping power for a cruel order in human lives was not what he had in mind. ■

(Gilligan/Globe and Mail; Sooden/Reuters)



DAVID 1999: Peacemakers near Habonim prison, and, opposite page, U.S. proper vigil for hostages



INSIDE CANADA'S HAMMOCK INDUSTRY

People have cultivated **marijuana** in the Canadian outdoors since the 1960s. But the arrival and spread of hydroponic expertise in the 1980s and 1990s and the **profitability** of indoor growing put the industry on a steroid program — pumping up yields per plant, stoking THC levels to new stony heights and priming profits skyward. Today Bud Inc. is a hardly invisible going concern worth **billions of dollars** and complete with its own emerging barons. Anyone can see that. No wonder it **scars the hell out of the status quo**, especially the Bush administration in Washington.

MULTIPLY

[illegible]

Chickadees in London are just a slice of the close to 200 Canadiana, many of Aboriginal descent, serving in the U.S. war on terror. In the past year alone, close to 50 Canadiana have joined the U.S. army, and the vast majority are natives. Some are drawn by adventure, others by the prospect of a stipend (some as much as US\$20,000) or job training. Still others are following the long, proud tradition of Aboriginals serving in both military and civilian. Natives in Canada have long been able to join the American forces because the U.S. considers natives dual citizens (other non-citizens can join, but only if they've lived in the United States with a spouse, and

Because aboriginals are the only Canadians in communities whose members can claim that the U.S. or Canadian military, their immediate south of the border is somewhat controversial. The U.S. needs troops to maintain a costly war in Iraq, while Canada wants to add 8,000 troops to its forces over the past five years. Two years ago, the U.S. set off a major diplomatic row when reservists were spotted working among natives in several provinces. Native groups speak openly of having welcomed reservists to their communities. But

U.S. army spokesman Douglas Smith insists the incident was likely a "couple of young soldiers who went home and were speaking positively about their experience. U.S. army recruiters are not allowed to come into Canada, and it's somewhat rare for a soldier to be recruited in this way."

Informal recruiting still takes place—through brochures, word of mouth or on-line networks on U.S. channels. In 2004, the Assembly of First Nations passed a motion recognizing the right of the U.S. military to recruit on First Nations territory. “We didn’t like it when the Canadian government told the Americans, ‘Stay off our reserves and leave our Indians alone,’” says Chief Sam Bessette, who led the motion and himself served with the U.S. military, as did his father, brother and numerous other relatives from the Kootenai and Spokan First Nations in southern Ontario. “We didn’t believe it then.”

Harry Lafend, director of education at Maslog Labor union, and one of Ledoux's

former teachers, say about one in five residents in his classes will seriously consider a stint in the military. Though inspiring the Christian Forces (which employ about 5,000 men in more countries), he says, "Indian tribes have had representation in the American military that goes back to the time of the War of 1812." He says he has seen the military in action in Canada or the U.S., in what it often calls "earn the social skills" exercise as a career-day idea. Says McInnis-Shea, a former military policeman who for the past 14 years has been working in Winnipeg on the Canadian Forces' ongoing Bold Eagle, which combines cultural and military training for native youth. Swain, who is Aboriginal, also uniformly helps the U.S. Marines' creation, handing out briefcases and speaking on native radio. "It's not about the military," he says, "it's about the American Midway message out there. They're in the Marine Corps, it's a very serious challenge. They want to be successful."



BOB DHILLON:
A REAL ESTATE HONCHO
ALOFT ON A SECOND WIND
AFTER BEATING CANCER
PHOTOS BY PETER BREGG

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**THE
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JAPAN: HATE COMICS ARE NO LAUGHING MATTER

In a time of friction between Japan and its neighbours, ultra-nationalist Japanese exiles with titles such as *Mate Korea and Indochina* to China are selling themselves of thousands of copies. The latter denies Japanese atrocities during the Second World War and accuses China today of fomenting Japan with "NATO-inspired provocations" and ethnic syndicates. Says reader Atsushi Iwata, 28: "It's the right of any nation to interpret history."

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Cadillac

It is entirely appropriate that the official endorsement of Macdonald's name on the New Canadian Establishment, my subject, should be Nijver (Bibi) Dhillion, a very different breed of entrepreneur than his half dozen predecessors. Unlike his peers, he is a master scuba diver, expert spear fisherman, and professional level salsa dancer. He does not wear the trademark Sikh turban and jetties you and me to religious observance. As a business owner, he boasts that he will be across North America's first Sikh billionaires—he runs and controls a \$100-million publicly traded real estate company, owns up apartment buildings in Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto and Vancouver, and for fun on the side, markets luxury beach lots in the Central American playground of Belize.

A 46-year-old, barrel-chested overman who lives in a palatial \$2-million house on a mountain overlooking Calgary, Dhillion describes himself as having "a triple A type

man, you develop a survival instinct, as I have. The image of being Sikh is that of a chadon-oriented, but it actually is very liberal. You go to a Sikh temple, and they sing songs like the southern hip-hop and invite you in for a meal. When the Canadian League wouldn't allow banned Sikhs into their halls, they didn't realize that we're not more violent Canadians than any other group. Sir John A. Macdonald once suggested bringing us a Sikh battalion to protect Canada from the Americans."

Although he considers India to be his homeland, Dhillion was born in Japan. His grandfather, Sogun Singh Dhillion, had emigrated from Punjab to Hong Kong in age 16. There he eventually became a trader and established the North China Shipping Co., which exported goods to Japan. That was where Dhillion was born in 1965. Six years later, the family moved to Liberia to tap the trading market of West Africa. During the 1970s, when a bit not civil war erupted in that unstable republic, the family lost everything and sought refuge in Vancouver. It was not a happy time.



DETERMINED MAKEOVER: He became North America's first Sikh billionaire. His outlook is to buy buildings that require drastic repositioning, such as one in Calgary's Forest Lawn district that had been a doghouse burglar. Dhillion moved \$1.1 million and turned it into two million-dollar complexes.

When he's not skipping his yacht off the coast of Belize, where he's marketing beachfront lots, Dhillion's negotiating to buy more land there, predicting it 'will be the next St. Bart's without the Eurotrash'

personality." He has never been interviewed before, except for two minor segments on business channels, and is inordinately shy about his personal life, which he insists must remain private for religious reasons.

Dhillion's frame schedule allows few quiet moments to discover his inner life. "When I'm travelling alone on plane rides, that's the only time I have for myself," he admits. "On these four-hour trips from Toronto to Calgary, I can reflect on my future. I'm always writing notes to myself and sketching out business plans. But I do meditate, which gives me clarity."

He always didn't have a future. "I was diagnosed at one time for having cancer, and I beat it," he reveals. "I got my clean bill of health three years ago. I also beat cancer in Alberta and the odds of a falling capital market. What drives me is the second wind as my job when I beat cancer, and went through chemo. Now the stars are realising. My personality is a blend of my family, being an entrepreneur, and being cancer."

"If you ask me what religion I am, I would say, I am a Sikh," he says. "But if you ask me whether I am a real practicing Sikh, I would say that would be a false statement. I am more spiritual than religious. Sikhs were persecuted like the Jews. They've always been in war. For hundreds of years, we guarded the Swatlands of the Khyber Pass, beating off the invaders who came from the north. When you're fighting for your life, generation after genera-



tion, there were regularly directed at the youthful Bhai as he walked to school.

He is now released in Calgary, which they finally found to be as much welcoming. His mother was fired from her job at the office strictly because of his recent arrival. "Now, this is a fact," Dhillion insists. "We fought the caste-wide persecution, a Crown corporation, and now, I don't want to give you a story about someone hitting me in a bar, or somebody calling me a Pikh and pulling my hair—these are things that happen because some guy behaves like an idiot. I'm telling you about an emotional fact. My mom fought the case, and was vindicated a year later."

The family settled in in Calgary "It was tough getting a job," Dhillion recalls. "There were only two unoccupied properties available for the Sikhs, and it was really hard

and I vowed I would never happen again." Interestingly, his first success was to establish the ground-breaking Pan-Pacific Mortgage Group, which he hoped to spin into a major distributor of three Asian North American brands throughout South Asia. It never happened, but not nearly if you ordered a bloody Mary anywhere east of Hawaii, you'd have favoured a with Dhillion's success was distributed by Bob Dillman.

He underwent a significant sea change in 1994 when he decided, at age 32, to spend two years getting his MSc in MBA at the University of Western Ontario's Richard Ivey School of Business. Larry Tapp, then the school's dean and now director of Dhillion's company, described him as "a very driver, driven guy." In May of his first year, he incorporated Mountain Equity Corp. as a member Alberta company that would become his main investment vehicle. "I used every available course at Ivey to formulate the strategy for Mountain," he recalls. "Whether it was building a brand, running an efficient operation, financing growth or making a speech, I thought about the lessons in terms of what the program was for Mountain." When he graduated, his company was public, and he began buying properties to build instead of flip. One such Calgary, he owned his office out of the car park to the right floor of one his buildings, which was also used to store construction supplies.

In the process of moving in new directions, he came up with every entrepreneur's worst dream: a neglected yet accessible real estate niche that could profitably be filled without having to raise too much new capital. The building industry was polarized into local stores and pay-to-play operators running a few buildings, and in the other end, the giants—the Brownfells, the Reichmans, Brookfield. It was an industry in between was where Dhillion wanted to be. He became a consolidator of multi-family, mid-sized

A secular Sikh, he is a master scuba diver and spear fisherman, and pro-level salsa dancer

to break through the glass ceiling. For example, we were banned from any front-line positions at office, and as of companies would be out."

With no obvious prospects, he decided to go into business for himself. In 1994, at age 33, he bought two houses, sold them up, and sold them for a \$15,000 profit. That was his modest breakthrough. For the next 15 years he bought and sold Calgary real estate worth about \$150 million, a hectic pastime best known as flipping. "I worked out of the trunk of my car and with a cellphone," he remembers. "What drove me to work 70 hours a week or more was that my family had lost everything in Liberia after the coup,

residential rental properties, starting in Alberta, then moving west to Vancouver and out to Toronto. During the purchase years, Mountain Equity (of which he owns 41 per cent) has quadrupled from 250 units to nearly 4,000, with a portfolio worth more than \$300 million. The year 1999 was a particularly sell-off one, with the Global Fund Robert a market of major real estate company the following year as the appeal in list of Biggest Profit Gainers, recording a stunning 57,791 per cent increase.

The technique is to buy buildings that require drastic repositioning, such as one in Calgary's Forest Lawn area that had 60 dog-worm cars and trucks in its developer parking

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STEVE MARTIN

The recent enlightenings of an election campaign have come in the three-armed media presentation. They're more often in the unscripted conversations that creep along the way.

When Stephen Harper is enthusiastically endorsing his growing toddlers, and he roars as if the child might be infected with the Ebola virus, he's telling you something about himself. And when one of Paul Martin's senior advisers says working parents are more likely to hire a little extra cash on beer and popcorn than to spend it on their children, you learn something about the attitudes that help form Liberal policy. The media tend to characterize these things as "gaffes," when in fact they are precious moments of truth.

These little clues are useful, but the more dramatic evidence is gleaned from the theories that underlie the parties' platforms. Take, for example, the contrast between two key tax proposals now on offer to Canadians: do you want the smart tax cut, offered as a consolation prize for Liberal bungling? Or the dumb, but popular, tax cut, proffered by the Tories?

First, consider the incumbents' plan. In addition to gradually reducing income taxes by \$30 billion over five years, Tony Martin is now dangling a proposal to slash dividend taxes. It's a sensible idea, affordable and likely to yield real benefits in the economy. The trouble is not the real world, but the distorted world voters are asked to enter.

The dividend tax cut was announced last month, after several weeks of costly agonizing in Ottawa, all revolving around the Liberal's paranoia that income taxes are discriminating federal coffers. Companies structured as trusts pay out most of their cash flow to investors in monthly cash distributions, and by doing so, they're able to avoid federal taxes. Some estimate this costs the feds hundreds of millions every year, but that wasn't seen as a major problem until recently. More and more companies have been converting to income taxes of others, and when voters surfaced this year that some major banks might make the switch, the bourgeoisie in Finance melted the party's fortress.

Ralph Goodale declared that that income trust chinked in to be closed in, and a wave of fear was sent crashing through the capital markets. Small investors sold trusts like candy,

artists saw their portfolio values plummet, and confusion reigned. In the end, on the eve of a new election, Goodale stumbled on the single solution that had been obvious to most observers all along: cut the dividend tax rate to reduce the incentive for companies to convert into trusts. It'd still cost the feds billions, but the so-called tax leakage will be reduced, and companies will be encouraged to reinvest profits in the business.

The Liberals ended up in the right place, but not before sparking an unnecessary con-

Do you want the smart tax cut, as a consolation for Liberal bungling? Or the dumb, but popular, tax cut?

as for untold thousands of investors. The whole fiasco was capped off by what appears to have been a dismally timed leak from Goodale's underlings that may have sparked a rash of insider trading on the day of the announcement. Now the Liberals are seen judging, as if that tax cut is a gift to voters that came as a fishbowl from heaven. It's clever here, it's just not true.

Really, the prime alternative suffers a different set of problems. The central plank of the Conservative plan, so far, is Harper's promise to trim a percentage point off the much-loathed GST, and to follow up with another percentage point cut within a few years. It's good politics, and bad policy.

The Tories declared that the annual cut would put another \$400 a year in the pockets of an average family with an income of \$60,000. Sounds great, except it won't. The calculation assumes the family spends that \$400 a year (on average every penny of its net income) on things subject to the GST. In the real world, most families spend a lot less. GST-averse necessities like groceries, rent or mortgage payments—essentially the real wages will be far less than advertised. But that's not all. The Tory tax cut is also totally regressive. Slashing a consumption tax like the GST favors the people that buy the most stuff, i.e. the rich—thus providing the grandfatherly to the people who need it the least.

Harper defends the cut on economic grounds, saying there's no better way to quit consumption. And that's maybe, but Canada doesn't have a consumption problem, it has a competitiveness problem. People and corporate income don't need encouragement to go buy more stuff, they're already doing that at a healthy pace. The country needs incentives to invest more for the future. A GST cut encourages the opposite. Moreover, every point cut from the GST costs the feds at \$4 billion a year, so there won't be much room for additional relief once that's done.

By hardly inspiring confidence that Harper (bubbled a huge much question right out of the gate, and seems to misread the nature of Canada's economic challenge. The only depressing fact is that the Tories are at least offerring up a policy that people seem to want.



BAD NAUO: Stephen Harper's cut to the GST. Between the old and new it helps the economy.

Sell, it's a depressing choice. Do you want the party that has fallen backwards into the right policy, but only after blundering through a few missteps first? Or would you rather the party that's more prone to let popular fear the bubble of misapplied policy? Hey, we said election campaigns could be enlightening, not enraging. **M**

EMPLOYEE
OF THE
WEEK

FAT FINGERS ADD UP TO UP TO DISASTER

They won't say exactly who did it, but a trader at Telus's Mirabeau Securities recently cost his firm about \$254 million, and scuttled the staff's Christmas bonuses, because of what is known as the financial industry's "fat-finger syndrome." The dealer inadvertently sold 600,000 shares in a telecom company for less than a penny each, instead of one share for \$5,000. The blunder caused a momentary sell-off and shaved two per cent off the Hikes.

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THE FIVE LUCKY WINNERS get makeover (clockwise): Sarah Collins, stylist, Selma; the women show off their big day, post makeover with Collins

CHRISTMAS MIRACLE AT MAC'S

Who wouldn't want a stylist? Someone to update your look right down to your underwear. Meet five lucky employees who got the treatment for free.

BY KATE FLEMING—One day last week, Mac's Convenience Store employee Orla Pauls, 45, was trotting through a shop in Toronto's Eaton Centre behind her stylist, Sarah Collins, a slim blond who smokes a brisk pace. Collins was en route to the largest fitting room in the place, where she'd already set aside some clothes, when a sparkly sweater caught her eye. "I feel self-conscious about my weight," Pauls said doubtfully, lingering the tiniest instant. "At work, they're giving us cheer-

event hoods." "I don't like to be the centre of attention in any way," said Pauls, who can't remember the last time she bought a complete new outfit. She figures she hasn't been to a hairdresser in 15 years. "But a lot of people moisturized me."

She didn't mind that her co-workers thought she was in need of a makeover. In fact, like the other four winners, she was thrilled to discover that in addition to one-hour shopping spree with Collins, she'd be given a full day off work to get her hair cut and makeup done before the party, all paid for by Mac's. "Eighteen people were nominated, and I'll be honest: the ones who didn't win are really mad," said Christina Scornifini, clutching two large shopping bags of clothes after her outing with Collins.

Meanwhile, the stylist was waiting through the store, grabbing a tailored white shirt and a hooded bolt for Pauls. "I feel like Oprah," she said. "It's fun for me, because I can really help these women feel better about themselves." Collins' theory goes like this: if you look good, you feel good—and even if you don't feel good, well, at least you look better, which is a nice pleasant for everybody.

Indeed, Pauls, who went into the dressing room in a voluminous white shirt and black pants, came out wearing a brick tulle, wearing black tights, a long, asymmetrical jacket, and the sparkly sweater. She looked, suddenly, like a kind of woman who could pull together a cocktail party in her sleep.

"How do you feel?" Collins asked. "Thinner," Pauls answered, staring at



her reflection. Good, Collins nodded, thinner was good. She pinned Pauls's pants, selected a necklace for her, and tied a belt around her waist. "You can wear this jacket with jeans, black or brown pants," she instructed. "Be reassured: there can only be good here in your outfit. The jacket's your hero."

Collins, who also gives seminars to companies looking to attract employees on dressing for success, has styled everyone from financially strapped students who want to make a good first impression to job interviewers to wealthy socialites on virtually limitless budgets who would die if anyone knew they had professional clothing advice. Unlike a personal shopper, a stylist also works with what you already have in your closet, figuring out new ensembles and updating old pieces.

"Maybe you have a good closet, but I can bring you new and we'll super it so it's a little more fitted," says Collins, who charges \$300 to \$500 an hour and will be creating a whole new look for those who won't win. "I've often chosen to get their own personal, hair cut, buy new underwear and jewelry—everything, really."

The day before she met the Mac's employees, for instance, she went to the home of a business executive and cleared out his closet, carrying three large garbage bags of clothes off to a local charity, then took her shopping for casual clothes. "After a lot of fuss, he had a body image issue because buying clothes

was too big, that made him look heavier than he actually is." "She made me look like I lost 15 pounds," said the man, who did not want his name used. After spending more than \$12,000 an hour and 45 minutes, he promptly by locked another appointment.

The afternoon of Mac's holiday party, when Collins realized some of the women were planning on wearing socks with their



BEFORE AND AFTER: Orla Pauls, 45, who can't remember the last time she bought a complete new outfit, she was in need of a makeover, then helped them get dressed and sent them off to the Mac's shopping spree. Orla Pauls's transformation. "That was a home run." Like the others, Pauls was thrilled with the whole process, not least because she got to keep the clothes.

Then Collins went off to see another client, someone in the financial industry who had a black-framed closet to attend "eliminate angst," she said. "It's a pretty good job."

GERMANY: PREPARING FOR THE SPINKEPUSCH

The British embassy in Berlin has issued a helpful German glossary for British soccer enthusiasts attending next year's World Cup. While it provides Germans with soccer-related terms such as "Schlussspieler" (goal scorer), it also lists terms such as "Alkoholverbot" (alcohol in forbidden), "Frankfurter Rindfleisch" (porking food), "Stinkfinger" (stinkfinger) and "Er lachte mir ein Astloch" (he pulled his guts up).

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A ROCK STAR—Orla Pauls, 45, couldn't remember the last time she'd bought a complete new outfit. She hadn't been to a hairdresser in 15 years

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SCIENCE



How R tngz, dude?

Cellphones, insists a Japanese primatologist, have turned teenagers into barely verbal monkeys

BY COLIN CAMPBELL • Teenagers are sitting a lot like monkeys these days, says Nobuo Maatsuka, a professor at Kyoto University in Japan. This may not exactly qualify as news for many parents struggling to raise teenage children, but Maatsuka isn't talking in metaphor. The noted primate expert is being quite literal when he says, "The behavior of the young generation is very similar to monkeys!" The reason, he adds, is the cellphone—and Maatsuka, who caters himself to his of Mutsuhi Matsushita, has struck a chord in Japan with his theory. A book he wrote on the subject, called *Monkeys with Mobiles*, has sold 200,000 copies since it came out two years ago. And it all comes down to that ubiquitous piece of technology, which has been blamed for making someone drive and less considerate people (who speak loudly in restaurants, buses and public places).

Cellphones, explains Maatsuka, have given teenagers a freedom from their parents and family life like never before. As a result, teens in Japan are spending their days hanging out in the same old places, with no particular des-

ination in mind and no need to show up at an appointed time to eat or rest—unlike the monkeys he studies. Teens have, in effect, extended their living rooms to the streets, he says. "They behave in public spaces as if they're living in private rooms," Maatsuka writes in a phone interview from his lab at Kyoto's Primate Research Institute. "They are not conscious of the audience." And Japanese parents, he adds, aren't concerned, since they assume their children are always just a phone call away.

North Americans might say this is merely part of the teenage ritual of hanging out at the mall or listening, and has been part of teenage life long before cellphones. But the

difference he made this type of behavior easier—and more prevalent, Maatsuka contends. "Monkeys frequently communicate with one another with 'vocal' calls. The function is to maintain group cohesion. This is very similar to the use of mobile phones among teenagers. They send messages with mobile phones. They don't communicate any mean- ingful content—it's about group cohesion."

Maatsuka's thesis is based largely on his own observations, often while riding on the train and from interviews with teenagers. But there may be some valid science backing his argument. "The role of adolescence is an emancipation process," says Richard Ling, a visiting scholar at the University of Michigan who has written a book on the impact of cell phones on society. "There need to break away from their parents, and one of the ways they

'They don't communicate any meaningful content—it's about group cohesion'

do this is by spending time in peer groups, which allows them to develop their own identity. "The mobile telephone has made access to that sphere much easier," says Ling, who is also a co-author of a 2004 study on mobile phone use in Norway, where he has done extensive surveys on teens and cellphones use. "The mobile telephone gives teens direct access to each other wherever they want, however they want." And, he adds, the cellphone's ability to tolerate public spaces and make private is also "one of the things that we're having to deal with"—although whether that makes us more like monkeys is beyond his expertise, he jokes.

Maatsuka is not optimistic about the future of the youth in his country given the growth of mobile technologies, something that may not bode well for Canada, where cellphones are now in the hands of over half the population, and where their use has doubled in the past five years. Maatsuka argues that teens who have grown up with television, video games and now cellphones aren't forced to develop complex social skills. In difficult situations they tend to lash out aggressively, another similarity to his monkey subjects. "They don't have the opportunity to acquire socialization. They behave always as if they live at home, like couch potatoes." ■



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Bubbe wannabes

Young Jewish people are suddenly cooking like their grandmothers, gefilte fish and all

BY BARBARA KUPERT • Anna Rupert, a third-year psychology student at the University of Western Ontario, is a famous around campus for two reasons. First, she's the daughter of Bonnie Stein, Canada's best-known cookbook author, cooking teacher and food writer. "It's sort of embarrassing," Rupert laughs over the phone. "People who don't even know me will come up to me and ask, 'So how will *deyou* cook?' It really takes me by surprise."

But the 20-year-old is even more famous for her latkes. She held her first latke party, in honour of Hanukkah, last winter to rave reviews. "My neighbour and I decided to make latkes because we missed eating them. We let

'We ended up making tons and tons of latkes. Our apartment reeked for weeks.'

a lot of people know what everyone in the building could smell them anyway. Everyone came up. Of course I made my mother's recipe—I can't betray her!" says Rupert. "We ended up making tons and tons of them. Our apartment reeked for weeks, but it was worth it."

Rupert is among a growing number of young Jewish people who are starting to cook like their grandmothers. The trendy dishes of contemporary celebrity chefs had disappeared; they went as far as how to make Jewish soups—matzo ball soup, latkes, chuklis, and gefilte fish. "The only thing we have in our freezer is four loaves of latkes," says Rupert. Although she's right in the middle of studying forensics, nothing, Rupert says, will stand in the way of the second annual latke party. "We kind of have to do it. People keep asking us about it," she says.

It's a nostalgia thing, says Bonnie Stein. "Once people move away from home, or when they start having kids, or their grandparents start dying, they realize they're going to miss out on eating for the holidays and learning how to make these types of foods."

Adri Shomer, a food stylist, recipe developer and chef, recently taught a Hanukkah cooking class at Dish Cooking Studio in Toronto. She was pleased and surprised to see that her youngest student was 12 years old. "There was also a young woman lawyer and a twentysomething male engineer in the class

"Younger people want to learn how to cook these types of foods because they have such fond memories of them. The smells are so evocative," she says.

Now 46, Shomer got interested in Jewish cooking at the age of 18, in high school, thanks to her grandmother. "I was a taco fiend," she says. "I even produced a cookbook for all my cousins called *The Fear of Garlic*. The great thing about this kind of cooking is so much



MINNIE, MATZO BALL SOUP It's a nostalgia thing, says Bonnie Stein. Her daughter makes latkes.

of it you can make by yourself and it tastes better than buying it at a store."

Rebecca Rosenberg was 22 when she started cooking Jewish foods. "I love gefilte fish," she says. "My grandfather used to make the best gefilte fish, but he took his recipe to the grave with him and I was too young to learn how to cook anyway. Then, when I got married, my mother-in-law gave me a recipe and it was delicious. Honestly, my husband loves the head of the fish, so I make it for him. My husband and I really are like bubbes and zaidels," says the now 30-year-old. During

Hanukkah and Passover, she says, she has to open all the windows in her house. "It smells like fish and chicken soup and that's it."

The appeal of matzo ball soup and potato latkes has also shined up in career cookbooks, where there are, for instance "modern" versions of the latke. Amy Rosen, the author of *Cook This Recipe for the Gouda Girl*, has updated a handful of Jewish recipes for her book. Latkes have become "crispy sweet potato pancakes served with mango chutney," and "rugelach," a Jewish levain cake, has become "sweet potato and carrot yeast kishka," served as individual dashes. "For a while people thought it was glamorous and a badge of honour to not be able to cook," Rosen says. "I think that's a silly badge of honour. Now people are starting to realize that if their grandmothers are dead, they're out of luck if they want thickened comfort food."

One of the books she eventually intends to write, says Rosen, is called *Rosher Kosel*, and it will include Jewish recipes. Still, there's one item she refuses to learn to make: chuklis. "My mother is famous for her chuklis. She had all my friends over to teach them how to do it. I don't want to learn and then be expected to make it."

Of course not all Jewish parents like the idea of teaching their children how to cook the Jewish dishes. If they do, they reason, how will they ever get the kids to come home for a visit? ■



DEAR OLD GRANDPA WAS SUCH A LYING THIEF

George Angelucci, 80, a con artist who ingested his way into an affluent Italian family's heart and swindled them for thousands of euros, has died. In 2004, he passed himself off as a lonely postman offering \$200,000 to any family who took him in. Once connected with the five family, he became, in the words of one member, "self-important and vulgar," borrowing funds for medical procedures then using stolen cheques to pay their bills.

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Two new shows succumb to Saturday Night fever

The classic comedy show has lost its cutting edge. Two new efforts are set to mock, or maybe save, the original.

BY SHARDA DEBIEL • "Listen, from Studio 7 on the Sunset Strip, it's Friday night on Hollywood." If that catchphrase sounds awfully similar to the opening words of *Saturday Night Live*, it's supposed to. It's from a TV pilot script, written by Aaron Sorkin (creator of *Sports Night* and *The West Wing*) and bought by NBC, about the inner workings of a sketch comedy show on a major network. And Sorkin's show very likely to back his own inspiration: Studio 7 on the Sunset Strip is slated to be an hour-long dramatic series about a beleaguered producer, winning writers, a competitive, catty cast—including one performer who's openly Christian (the Vietnam veteran, an SNL player from 1964 to '69)—twice hosts and musical guests (Rickey Laflamme and Counting Crows take on duos duos in the pilot script), and network execs.

And all these people who work on the show (that is, the fictional Studio 7) seem to recognize it's like in a way as the paragon of contemporary comedy. In the first episode, the Laraine Michaels-like executive producer, Wes Mendell, is fired after interrupting the live broadcast with a walkdown rant: "This show used to be cutting-edge, go-f***it and send advice, but it's gotten lobotomized by a stupid live broadcast network hell bent on doing nothing that might challenge their audience."

Strange that NBC would buy a show that is so obviously taking shots at its own late night institution, not to mention disparaging the network itself. Wonder if all at the furthest Sorkin's Studio 7 in the second show is called that NBC says it has in the works. The film is a Laraine Michaels-produced unscripted sketch created by and starring Tina Fey as the head writer of a sketch comedy show (the one she actually holds on SNL) called Friday Night Bhs. Tracy Morgan, a former SNL cast member ('96 to '98) will cover as an actor on the show when the show *Comedians* Michaels and Fey are still to reach a part of SNL, it's hard to tell how far they're sending it up. On the other hand, no one knows the behind-the-scenes reality better than they do.

Both plots are set in the current year and

have a lot of hurdles to clear before making it to air. Studio 7, despite being picked second, seems to have elegiac NBC acquired the show after an expensive bidding war with CBS, and has made all kinds of unusual promises—such as ordering 13 episodes based solely on one script. The network has also agreed to a steep (\$50 million) license fee per episode, a prime-time slot between Monday and Thursday, and a pricey penalty should it choose not to put the show on air. Either NBC believes that it's going to be a massive hit series, or it wants to control a show that, were it to run on another network, could easily embarrass



STUDIO 7 with backstage dealings every season—the 1970s (top) and 2005 (left)

NBC and *Saturday Night Live*. Perhaps it even believes that two behind the scenes shows will renew interest in the original.

What never seems to wane is fascination with the backstage mechanisms at SNL—the personalities, the drugs, the parades. Recently, NBC and Global ran the special *Saturday Night Live* in the '90s *Last and First*. And there was the 2002 bestselling and history book from New York, as well as former SNL writer-in-residence: Jay McInerney's *Guys for Juries*, an occasion of the same atmosphere behind the scenes, and Judd Apatow's *Prisoners of Sex*, in which she and others recount her husband's drug-fueled SNL escapades.

NBC and those involved with SNL, Studio 7 and Friday Night Bhs won't count on having the established programs and the new ones will all coexist. But Stephen Williams,

the season vice-president of programming at Global Television, who's also SNL, in Canada, notes that the shows exist in two distinct TV realms: "The land of decision-making that goes into what you think will be a prime-time hit with your audience can vary up to a decision from what you think works in late night," he says. "If it turned out that there was some sort of synergy between the two, that would be terrific for NBC. But as a manager, you don't play around with a prime-time drama in the hopes that it might somehow influence a late-night show."

Williams describes *Saturday Night Live* as an institution, "a steady, reliable product" whose members have stayed pretty much the same through out the years—with only minor bumps and drops in peaking on when there's been around the cast. It continues to be all other late-night shows among newer ones aged 18-to-24, including Jay Leno's and David Letterman's. It's possible, though, that older viewers have turned into SNL, out of habit, while younger ones find them because it has very little competition. So people continue to check in on the show, in hopes that maybe this week it'll be funny. "It's not dead and it's not," says former SNL and SNL player Rikky Doolittle, "a professor of comedy" at Hunter College in Yonkers. She laughs when asked if her students watch the show or are impressed by her association with it. "It's not relevant. I guess it's just become the norm—it's become the establishment. On great, see if I'll ever be invited to an SNL party again."

Currently, Michaels and company are excited to be above. Throughout history, the show has been defined by women of power and putting. After Michaels and her original cast—Dorothy Finkelstein, John Belushi, Gilda Radner, Garry Shandling, Jane Carr, Laraine Newman, Chevy Chase and, one year later, Bill Murray, which changed the face of comedy during those first few years ('75 to '80), they all left. And things went awfully bad on the ground by the next executive producer, Jean Doumanian (best known for being a friend of Woody Allen). Douk liberalized the show from '81 to '95—most commonly known as

the indie Murphy years. The rest of the cast—including Duke, Joe Pasco and Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Brad Hall, Mory Gross—were no match for the original not-ready-for-prime-time players, but they were sharp, experienced sketch comedians and, according to Duke, a very generous cast, with very few of the competitive singing. And they kept the ratings up.

But it was under Liberal, who was more of a network suit than a cross-the-gay, that SNL started to powder to the audience rather than become what's funny. "With Dink, it was totally about the numbers—who was watching, the age," says Duke. "Whereas I think Lorne was more about the material, the content. Lorne and the people around him figured what the show would be, whereas Dink allowed the audience to dictate what it would be." So when Duke would suggest doing sketches on web or about rising stars, she'd often get shot down. "I remember when *The Year of Living Dangerously* had just come out and I



HERE, LORNE AND HIS BROTHERS (From top) Fey and Fallon in 2003, Cook leaning on Dink, a peek with Tracy Morgan in 2000, Duke as Mr. T, with the real Mr. T in 1993—there's much raw material for the new show.

Fallon authored in a new youthful crowd. These days, though, not much is working. The writers aren't pushing any boundaries and the players, albeit talented, aren't breaking out. The political impersonations of Bush and Cheney by Will Ferrell and Darrell Hammond seem dated, but there are few big laughs. And if you've never seen Horne before, do improvise outside of the show, you'd think all he can play is spunky, farcical movie stereotypes—when his humor can actually be a lot more subtle.

But the new only way to grow (Lorne's old NBC show ended in 1993) he'd spent the winter producing a flop prime-time variety program called *The New Show* and struggling to raise to make money and paired slightly older guys like Phil Hartman, Kevin Nealon and David Carvey with young guys like Mike Myers, Chris Farley, Chris Rock and Adam Carolla. And then there were some lows in the '90s before Will Ferrell, Fey and Jimmy

"SNL is still making fun of what they were making fun of before," Duke explains. "It was always the liberal voice. But now South Park is making fun of that liberal attitude." According to Duke's *Hannah* madams, South Park remains—even after eight years—the pinnacle of TV comedy.

Sorkin has no project worth likely from what he is, after all, the creator of *The West Wing*—but the script for the pilot suggests a show that will push all kinds of buttons. She has on one on television after a network exec won't let a sketch called "Crazy Christmas" that evoked everyone up in the rehearsal go to air. Instead, the network's standards and practices guy wants it replaced with a recurring character called "Peripheral Vision Mac"—which everyone agrees is not funny. "We've just gone here doing that one till somebody laughs, huh?" a staffer asks rhetorically.

After Wes got fired, the new head of the former LBS network, Jamie McDevine (who's remained of former times, the former female NBC exec responsible for *Friends* and *Mad About You*, who's also *Survivor*), two former writers who are now making films, to return to the show as producers. Matt and Darney are reluctant to take on such a beat-down move, and McDevine promises a different atmosphere—starting with the fact that the words there to run the "Crazy Christmas" sketch. These two writers are clearly disgraced versions of Sorkin and his production partner, Thomas Schlicke. Darney is having a serious addiction and is doing a real-headed journalist—Sorkin was burned for carrying cocaine in an airport and has been linked to the *New York Times* story about columnist Michael Dowd. In a very post-modern way, Sorkin has set up himself and Schlicke—aka a *Daenerys* and *Matt*—in the corner of SNL (a.k.a. Studio 5).

In picking up their show, NBC is playing along. Essentially it has brought in new guys to uncover the weakness of SNL and make a parallel version of it. This said, don't expect that Michaels—Saturday Night Live will no doubt carry on under his watch. And as executive producer of Fey's *Friday Night* show, he has his own platform for his new ideas. "Lorne and Tim Fey, who are artists," says Duke, "can go on and make the show be more. That's smart, that's their saving grace, that's their redemption right there. That's probably Lorne's brilliance. Please take that part—and I'll be invited back to the party." ■



THE WAR ON CHRISTMAS... ACCORDING TO TV

For the first time Officially it's said that the Merry Christmas greeting is being replaced with Happy Holidays, leading *Daily Show* correspondent, Concha Josee Jones to argue: "We can't afford to lose any more ground, every syllable is precious. That's why this year I'm wishing everyone, A Merry Christmas and a Merry New Year. And a Happy Christmas to you, folks." On the other hand, celebrated Christmas by showing *How a Star is Made* with



If life were like that, you wouldn't need a Visa card.
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All you need



GOING TO HAHN: Tyglor and Hoffman color an awkward father-son road trip in *Transamerica*

Your dad's a gay cowboy? Mine's a chick.

From *Brokeback Mountain* to *Transamerica*, Hollywood blends genre and gender

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

Look at the trend on the indie film circuit: Indie *Brokeback Mountain* and indie *Transamerica* are leaving little *Logans*, *Ames*, *Halfway There*, *Jack*, *Gyrfalcon*, and a menagerie of men and women showboating, holding hands, getting married, losing babies. And let's wear eye-see may be irreversibly blinded as that "gay cowboy movie." But in the trailer's images the only sign of the love that does not speak its name is a little, manly hug between the male leads. Not who can blame the distributors for wanting to downplay the most salient element of the story? The last thing they want is for their film to be categorized by the same producers as *Cherchez le Femme*. And it doesn't deserve to be. What makes *Brokeback Mountain* such a triumph is that, once the story unfolds, it works like any other sweeping, Hollywood romance about the power of an illicit love that will not be denied.

The holiday season is full of movies about families imploding from the shock of too much information

As the year in romance comes to a head, and award-season looms, *Brokeback Mountain* has emerged as the dearest example of an overwhelming emotion. *Transamerica* is reuniting classic Hollywood genres with provocative themes. And traditional family values are under siege. Perhaps it's part of continuing the fallow, barren so many Hollywood movies these are a fearful season that family—and by implication, America itself—is no longer a safe haven. Canadian director David Cronenberg set the tone with *A History of Violence*, which narrated two Golden Globe nominee last week. It's a revisionist western, the tale of a perfect family in small-town America that's shattered by a eruption of violence and lies. And now the holiday season is laden with movies about households imploding from the shock of too much information.

In *Brokeback Mountain*, an erotic tryst between two cowboys in a gay-trout narrative is a controversial romance that has a future yet

as a thriller—screenwriter Larry Scott (Angels in America) adapted his script from Toronto writer George Johnston's 1994 book *Braveheart*. But even with all its gritty politics and raw, raw emotion, it seems the film's biggest tragedy is that the poor but honest father's gesture to his wife, and when he does finally make it back to the marriage bed, has been so cruelly interrupted by *Brokeback* to the Olympic medals.

Loadling a genre with a high-minded agenda can be dicey. *Amadeus* doesn't know quite what it wants to be—ruthless thriller or sentimental drama. In its own fashion, Spielberg's *Heaven* is so confused as the transsexual protagonist in *Transamerica*.

Damon Tuohy's superbly bizarre debut works surprisingly well in its bid to reimagined the classic American road movie. *Transamerica* follows the usual itinerary: away off in New York, head for California's promised land, and bump into the meaning of life while taking a detour through the desert. Policy Hoffman's performance is a bit of a stunt, one of the bravest of gender-bending since Hilary Swank played a woman trying to pass as a man in *Boys Don't Cry*. As a woman playing a man trying to pass as a woman, Hoffman is outrageously convincing. Some people will say, "What's so hard about that?" but it looks even tricker than simple cross-gender impersonation.

Brokeback Mountain and *Transamerica* break taboos in further, assuring our readings. And in both cases, viewers are let

in on the secret from the start, as they can watch with a secure sense of complicity. Even then, in *Brokeback Mountain*, the romance roars with gasp and nervous laughter when Alison (Hoffman) spies her husband (Ledger) loaded in a rubber condom with the male cowboy played by Glynneth. Though already aware of the romance, we're shocked to see it through her eyes. A congratulatory vociferous.

With *Transamerica*, the viewer spends the first part of the movie waiting for the transsexual's sex to figure out that it's a man, and the second part waiting for her to reveal that she's his father. It's a gaily ride. The strange thing is, even though the boy (Kevin Zegers) is a male prostitute and his father is a naive transsexual fishing for gay money, they're such lovable misfits that you can imagine viewers warming to them even in the ranks of *My Little America*. If the holiday spirit is about peace and tolerance, these movies are really in keeping with the season.

The issue of tolerance looms again in *The Family Stone*, a drama for the holidays even if it still throws some new kinks into the usual male-female-guy plot as the film tells. The Stone family is a warm, fairly tolerable family with four grown children. One of them (Devine Mulvey) is bisexual, his secret girlfriend (Parker), who proceeds to wreck

TOP MOVIES OF 2005

BY DAN O'NEILL'S PERSONAL BEST

1. **A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE** With a sharp-shooting tale of Palestinian suicide bombers

2. **UNDERLASH MOUNTAIN** Any Leif's last, truly powerful moment: his death in a ship

3. **CAPTIVE** For his lyricalism in a writer who pumps his soul for a story: Philip Seymour Hoffman deserves an Oscar

4. **JUNIUS** Phil Moseley's initial, heartless performance: 2005's most understated gem

5. **MATCH POINT** Forget Woody's and modernism: it's his best movie since *Crash* and *Millennium*

6. **PARADISE NOW** Part angry, part poetic

7. **GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK** David Strathairn shines in George Clooney's high-tech, smoke-filled doc-noir

8. **R.A.I.D.** With Steve and the Stones on the soundtrack, Jean-Marc Vallée makes the Québécois a story about a gay couple

9. **CHARGE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY** Tim Burton and Johnny Depp truly get it right—a sublime, surreal collection

10. **KING KONG** It's overgrown, and too long, but what do you want—a quiet, classic tale about a giant gorilla? *Kong* rocks

NOTEWORTHY: *Water*, *Spence*, *The Assassination*, *The Usual Suspects*, *The Best of Youth* (1 & 2), *Grizzly Man*, *Touch the Sound*

TURKEY: Switched, *Disaster Movie*, *Mean Girls*, *Electric Blue*, *Remember Me*, *K*

have. It's hard to believe that a city so sophisticated as played by the actors we all know as Carrie could be so naive, but even a small town in the hills of her boyfriend's mother (Diane Krus) is a different kind, surely, she would prefer her children to be "normal" rather than gay. The family stone is an all-you-can-eat metaphor: it's a laugh, cry, comedy with sex, disability, cancer and a new globe. But

as a guilty pleasure, with a pinch of good actors, it's a lot more fun than *Remember Me*. It's a brotherhood the parents seem where the parents live in an unusual, whole, shared house. And it's not disaster, a movie so bad it makes you wonder why, damn it, it's not being pushed for being pushed by Brad Pitt. It seems there's no question in Hollywood, not even at Christmas. ■

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WE'RE STALKING...

KATIE HOLMES AND TOM CRUISE'S BABY

Katie Cruise's parents were crowned the second hottest couple of 2005 by *Star* magazine. In *Heavenly Creatures* and *Whitey*, Holmes is a star. And now the pair's No. 1 public relations managers, according to *People* magazine. And now the pair's most frequenters: injured during *Whitey* by suggesting those with weak inhibitions drink cooking oil in a cure, as opposed to using knives and prescribed medication.





THE REARLY ARMORED APHEMANS drive their vicious war, then ran 400 to protect their city state from the superpower forces

'The most decisive conflict in world history'

If Persia had won the Battle of Marathon, there'd be no democracy, no Christianity

BY BRIAN RICHMOND Almost 2,500 years ago the citizen soldiers of Athens, just 10,000 men gathered on the plain of Marathon, launched an audacious attack on an early Persian invasion force. Advancing two kilometers under a leading hoplite unit, the heavy Persian overtook under cover that 30 kg of bronze, wooden leather, and meeting the Greeks through a storm of arrows, the Greeks dashed into their highly armored feet. Darius the Persians took 6,400 of them while losing only 193 of their own men. Then, in perhaps the day's most impressive military feat, the exhausted Greeks turned around and raced 42 miles back to Athens—the length of a modern marathon run—arriving in time to protect it from the Persians here.

That first, bloody defeat of a previously invincible superpower in 490 BCE has never been forgotten in the West. Nor have the battles that followed it—the battles that stand of the Persian 300 at Thermopylae, the crucial victories of the Athenians at sea off Salamis and off the Spartan on land at Plataea. As Tom Holland's superb history *Persian Fire* (Penguin) points out, because the Greeks were victorious their philosophy, science and culture are woven throughout Western civilization. John Stuart Mill called "the battle of Marathon, even as an event in English history, is more important than the battle of Hastings." Admittedly, for his part, admired the Spartans, it was loving mortal race who—unlike the German army at Stalingrad—had the courage to perish gloriously in a Gothic dimension. "That East is East and West is West," and, contrary to fighting, devoted to meet as war, Holland writes, "is early history's most chilling assumption."

But that assumption "seemed dead when I was young and wanted to settle about it," Holland, 37, told *Weekend*. Then the British

Wall fell, "and ancient spaces started to emerge from the perspective of the Cold War—spaces that came fully alive after 9/11." Working at the time in a book about the end of the Roman Empire—that is, about a decade with imperial interests consistently getting involved in Middle Eastern wars—Holland found himself gripped by the new interest in history's first great East-West clash.

Holland delights in the ambiguous parallels and ironies he found when contemplating that ancient conflict and today's. The superpowers may have switched sides, but they still share some attitudes. Darius, the Persian

dominated Greece for their majestic colonial state, established on the backs of their neighbors—all of whom, as Holland notes, would have been better off under Persian rule. Even the Athenians, Mill's heroes of liberty, with their fledgling democracy on their labor and oppression of women. "There's a whiff of the Taliban about Athens," Holland says. The democratic war women in present-day powerful pieces in the pages of *ancient* politics and, no wonder that, cut their right out of public life.

But at the end, a Westerner has to thank the right side: would the Persians have, in fact a West error, argues Holland, can hardly imagine how he would think at all should the Persians have won, given the incalculable Greek influence on all subsequent European history. "No Greece, no democracy, no history as we know it, no Plato and even Plato's personal effect on all future ideologies, probably no Christianity and no Islam," Holland pines for a complete. "No Obama but Laidin—that's worth thinking about." But mostly, he says, it's a simple question: no Greece, no West. "It's the most decisive conflict world history, an unbelieveably exciting story made more so by what was at stake."

The big rip-off, though, were in the far future, right after the warship was far from apparent. The Persian long, seemingly as troubled by losing more of a 150,000 man army and an 800-ship fleet—Europe would not again see so large an amphibious inva-



FINALLY A BOOK ABOUT... HOLIDAYS FROM HELL

Not the kind you get when your cruise ship comes down with head-wind waves, but bad Christmas. The *First Noel* (Hogarth) contains a volume of stories and essays for those who breathe in hell at the first Noel. There's black humor to spare: stories of eating Christ was dinner alone at the local diner or visiting the in-laws. But for those, hilarious awfulness, nothing beats "Dinner Is Dead." Cynthia Kuper's account of driving into a door in Vermont

with a 2000 D-Day—continued to rule over the unrelenting engine for another 15 years. In Greece, however, history meant the return of pre-war traditions between and within city states. Plutarch, the Spartan general who was the heroic battle at Plataea, was seen wading up in a temple by his disappointed people to starve to death. And the Athenian leader Themistocles, the indispensable man of the age (the "even looked like a charcoal"), says Holland (who convinced his headbutter people to build a navy from scratch, was, the Churchill, moved from office to a soon-spoiled roomer). What's more, politics being rougher in Athens than Westminster, Themistocles was not of the beloved city. He made his way to Persia, and ended his days employed by its former enemies as an expert on Greek affairs. Still, wonder that the Greeks, as they contemplated the inside of their empire over the superpower of their day, ascribed the victory to Nemesis, the goddess of retribution at overthrowing the over mighty. ■

Computer bosses rock



SCOTT FEIGELSON

The future will be a non-digital and human place in which society's life have been surpassed, prospering achieved for all and off for good. Terrell Owens will be working the same hour, necessary of having a speech and amplification by the power of speech.

Let us therefore hold our eyes and look to the future in a new and occasionally interesting future we shall call Looking to the Future. (In the future, such pedestrian titles will seem creative and clever. Don't risk now.)

In the wonderful future, movies might not look so much like a science fiction. At the University of California, Berkeley, a computer program capable of producing a film is going to be a ship. Professor Kenneth Strand is the creator of a "powerful decision aid" for the movie industry, one that can analyze a movie over before it is made to forecast its box office performance. (It's high-tech system proves reliably accurate, it could replace the current, time-tested method of producing a bomb—necessarily finding in a film's credits the words "Kevin" and "Cameron.")

According to media reports, Prof. Strand has been working for several years on training an artificial neural network to recognize the subtle signs of a candy film's failure. Currently, the neural network is right about 75 percent of the time. He says, for instance, his system correctly predicted that the Harry Potter series of films would be wildly successful—which grew beyond doubt that it has a fully functional, state-of-the-art processor.

Right now, the neural network considers seven key factors during its judgment process, including a film's marketing campaign, its genre and the number of special effects in it. It doesn't pay attention to a movie's plot—but that's again, outside the movie people who work in the industry. What is that? Prof. Strand's research will be published in the *Journal of Expert Systems with Applications* early in 2006—or, to put the issue in the context of Hollywood, approximately seven John Travolta movies too late.

In the horrible future, we are all doomed—downed I tell you—doomed! Computers do not just about anything. They are super smart and yet also capable of demonstrating tremendous benevolence toward poorly represented magazine contributors—and I'm not putting that because they will one day soon be humanity's overlords and I would

very much prefer not to tell in slavery in the silver mines.

Alan, further evidence of our species' unending servitude comes from the University of Amsterdam, where a computer program has just explained the centuries-old mystery of the Moai Islands' moai. This is grave news indeed. If computers can crack our most enduring riddle, it's only a matter of time before they unlock the Canaanite crucifix—and we all know it's but a short step from that intellectual triumph to systematic global domination.

So we therefore take our last step from the cup of freedom, let us collectively name Dr. Max Seba, for it is he who developed the "emotion recognition software"—captioned "tearing apart" the emotions behind a facial expression—that enabled a computer to fully decipher the human's computer. Its conclusion: The emotional analysis reflects many different emotions being displayed simultaneously. Specifically, the algorithm revealed Moai

Lines to be 60 percent happy, 40 percent dis-

They are supersmart and yet also capable of demonstrating benevolence toward portly magazine columnists

gusted, 50 percent fearful and two percent angry. Also, that's apparently just about a miffed. Well, that's not actually true. But the reality is that our computerized mail drops being open to returning our stuff a court order. I must have my own list.

In the wonderful future, we will be able to telephone our dogs for some reason! A U.S. company has developed PetPhone, a bone-shaped cellular phone and tracking device that fits onto a dog's collar—thus enabling its owner to locate the pet via Global Positioning System or simply give it a call during the day.

Why would anyone telephone their dog during the day? Perhaps to angrily remind him that the ridiculous bone is used phone his screaming several hundred dollars, plus more each month for the calling plan, and realize it really is too much to ask to return that the dog is hanging the phone? The product is being tested as the perfect gift for the dog who has everything. This apparently was chosen over the more logical dog—the perfect gift for the dog who has a mutually defective owner. ■

Scott Feigelson can be reached at scfeig@sympatico.ca

| MACLEAN'S | |
|---|--------|
| BESTSELLERS | |
| CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20 | |
| Fiction | |
| 1. THE PNEUMONIC by Margaret Atwood | 1,000 |
| 2. THE LIGHTHOUSE by P.D. James | 2,000 |
| 3. THE TIME BETWEEN by David Bergen | 3,000 |
| 4. THE BA VINCI CODE by Dan Brown | 4,000 |
| 5. A BURNING OF THINGS AND ASHES by Gloria Steinem | 5,000 |
| 6. BURNING OF OCEANS by Robert Jordan | 6,000 |
| 7. A PERFECT REPLY TO GO TO OMB by David Gribble | 7,000 |
| 8. THE SEA by John Banville | 8,000 |
| 9. A PERFECT REPLY TO GO TO OMB by David Gribble | 9,000 |
| 10. SWEETNESS IN THE MOUTH by Gloria Steinem | 10,000 |
| Non-fiction | |
| 1. TALK TO THE HAND by Linda York | 1,000 |
| 2. THE REBELLEUSE OF THE REBELS by George Galloway | 2,000 |
| 3. FRANKENSTEIN by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner | 3,000 |
| 4. THE YEAR OF MARCH, 1968 by John D. Edgar | 4,000 |
| 5. TEACHER MARY by Mary McLeod | 5,000 |
| 6. THE GREAT WAR FOR CIVILIZATION by Robert Fisk | 6,000 |
| 7. THE SECRET MURDER OF THE PAPER by Peter C. Newman | 7,000 |
| 8. CROWD by Jonathan Safran Foer | 8,000 |
| 9. THE LAST PAPER by Jonathan Safran Foer | 9,000 |
| 10. THE CITY OF FADING ANGELS by John Banville | 10,000 |

RECOMMENDED

Facial hair, firewood and two-sided tape in our compendium of things that make life worth living

LOVING SLIPPERS, LOVE SOCKS?

Try J.Crew's suede-soled, extra-thick, knee-high wool slipper socks (four colours). Dig out the Christmas tree from the garage without wrecking your socks—or style.

BEAUTIFUL MINIMALISM, COURTESY OF THE CANUCKS

Vanessa's winter hockey jersey (Jules, 1970-71) resurpassed

on Dec. 4 as it due some will wear it twice more this season (Jules, 10/10).

Toronto and Jan. 21 against Montreal). If only they'd ditch the angry ears, for good.

WHISKERS FOR WHIPPER-SNAPPERS

Join the hundreds of men across North America who are saving money for their

by embracing their inner Tom Selleck. The 22 members of the Toronto branch of the Toronto Society for Kicks (www.tskicks.com) have raised \$2,500 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

BADLY FREE ME

Think of Pan Am as your own personal radio station. Type in your favorite artists and the site will return them and plenty of similar bands that you've never heard of. Listen for an afternoon and you'll be hooked.

THIRD TIME JUST AS GOOD AS THE FIRST

Profolkie-country rocker Ryan Adams has released three albums of new material this year. The latest, 20, is a little less country than the first two. In fact, one standout track, The Sadness, has a bit of Mexican flair.

DING THAT CRAZY SANTA CLAUS, OHOOH-O! Told it's "singing" under the ultra-hits. Lewis' festive's bizarrest What Will Santa Claus Say When He First Everbody-Sings!—and some Christmas standards by Ella Fitzgerald and Glenn Miller.

BACON STRIPS ADHESIVE BANDAGES

1000-PCS BACON STRIPS
HOLD YOUR WOUNDS
LARGE ADHESIVE
BANDAGES



MAKE IT BACON

Vegetarians may find it a bit gross, but these pork bandages will help cure your minor cuts and scrapes (www.bacon.com).

FLAMING YULE LOG The original small-screen fire log was filmed at New York's Grand National (first it, until an errant spark set off a firestorm). But on Christmas morning, Cops/A-Channel will run the Kyoto-friendly, gas version from 6 to 10 a.m.



MOLIERE, MURDERS, & MYSTICISM

For the cultured elite to 14-year-olds on your list this year, The King is the Window by Adam Gopnick is a well-planned fun way to be Paris.



SAS SACK JETS

A newly released documentary, Crash by Page 6, claims that a box of popcorn between the star-dancing '90s play-off series against the Oldsmobile Willys; their momentous

OOFS! Canadian cutie Rachel McAdams is the latest starlet to suffer a wardrobe malfunction—the dress she wore to the premiere of her new film, The Family Stone, proved a little revealing. Will somebody please tell those girls about two-sided tape?



NOT JUST ANOTHER BOOK ABOUT THE BEATLES

Author Bob Spivey puts out his newly 2,000-page doozy, The Beatles: The Biography, with about 500 pages of footnotes and bibliographical references—proof of his many years spent reporting. It's a fine resource for any diehard Beatles fan—but after finishing this massive tome, it's doubtful you'll ever miss the strength to read an other word about the Fab Four.

HAVE COOKIES, WILL TRAVEL

The Flourpots' cookies are pretty yummy, but it's the shapes and decorations—from reindeer and Easter eggs to Frankenstein and rubber ducks—and the fact that they'll ship them anywhere in the country that makes them the perfect party gift (flourpots.com).

BEST OF THE BANNED

In advance of the forthcoming release of the Best Banned Advertising Vol. 1, check out some of the ads that have offended consumers' "taste and decency" but you know best (regionaladvertising.com).



December 2006

THE BIG PICTURE

A special supplement from CBC in association with Maclean's



Time for better news

CBC rethinks its reporting. BP.12

Hockey makes a quick recovery. Faster game scores. BP.6

A television atlas of Canada. Series that shape us. BP.10

COMEDY WEEK: We're funny that way. BP.3

CBC's
HOCKEY DAY
IN CANADA



CELEBRATING OUR GAME

Saturday, January 7 at Noon ET - LIVE from Stephenville, Newfoundland

Plus, an all Canadian triple-header:

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Ottawa @ Montreal | 2pm ET |
| Toronto @ Edmonton | 7pm ET |
| Calgary @ Vancouver | 10pm ET |

Tim Hortons

cbc.ca/hockeyday



CBCsports

CURRENT WEEK

Greatest and latest

The way we laugh now

BY JANE L. THOMPSON

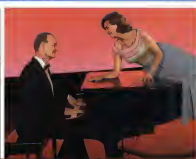
Canadians are often described as being low-key, mindful of saying please and thank you, and great lovers of beer and hockey. But the many comic characters we've created and exported around the world give a much more accurate indication of our rich national identity. There's the horn-named Fred Goetz, *Male Prostitute* (Dan Aykroyd), the shrewish floppy Lolita Heatherton (Catherine O'Hara), the bizzare Chicken Lady (Mark McKinney), the mother-headed Wayne Campbell (Mike Myers), the tart-tongued Marg, Princess Winner (Mary Walsh), the sassy Charlie Fungusman (Don Hester), and the hard-ass Edith Pringley (Andrea Martin). Not a pretty picture, perhaps, but an interesting one.

Canadian comedy never-
over has reflected our outsider status,
that of the cool, astute and sometimes
absurd observer. While Hollywood has
flourished to the south, Canadian comedy
has infiltrated it in every sense. Cana-
dians have been covert agents, passing
themselves off as insightful Americans.
But all that may be changing.

CBC television is celebrating this
outsider-as-insider status with a Com-

**Canadians have been covert
agents, passing themselves off as
insightful Americans. But all that
may be changing.**

edy Week from Jan. 3 to 7. It starts off
with a four-hour comedy retrospective,
Comedy Gold, which features interviews
and clips from everyone who is anyone



COMEDY? COMING UP!



PART AND PRESENT LAUGHTER:

Dan Aykroyd and David Strassman (top) star as the heads of a fictional 1980s CBC viewing show in *Getting Along Famously*. Martin Short and Tim Gross—along with everyone else who is anyone else—appear in *Comedy Gold*.

in Canadian comedy. Later in the week,
CBC will be airing three pilots that take
things in a new direction: *Chop Draft*,
Red Language, *Fast Cars, Women and a
Pilot Camera*, which is set in Halifax and
tells of three guys in their 20s trying to

make it big. *Robbinston*, about life in a
Newfoundland hair salon, where drink-
ing, snuffing glue and
stabbing your best
friend in the back are de rigueur, and
The Space for Rent, in which a group of
graduates try to figure out what to do
with their lives aside from getting rid

Chop Draft, Red Language, Fast Cars,

Women and a Pilot Camera

These homecoming guys want to strike movies and their estranged back jumping could be their big break. Stars: Jeffrey Brown, Mark Day and Dan Aykroyd. **Tuesday, Jan. 3, 9 p.m. ET/PT, CBC pilot.**

Comedy Gold

A four-hour retrospective celebrating Canadian comedy, featuring interviews with Michael J. Fox, Mike Myers, Dan Aykroyd, David Strassman, Dave Thomas, Mary Walsh, Johnny Chong and well, everyone. **Jan. 3 and 4, 8 p.m., CBC.**

Getting Along Famously

Strassman contracts to play a leading role, along with comedian Fred Sault and the population of Orkney. **Monday at 8 p.m. ET/PT, CBC.**



Getting Along Famously

Set in 1964, the series follows the lives of the stars of *It's a Boy and It's a Girl* comedy show. Stars: David Strassman and part of the wife Debbie McArthur. **Monday at 8:30 p.m. ET/PT, beginning Jan. 6, CBC.**

COMIC EVOLUTION AT WORK

The primary credo of *This Space for Rent* was: when they're going to do with their lives—and where that steel in their innocence left is coming from. In *Rebuckton* (next)—another CBC pilot with an explicitly Canadian setting—there's a lot of drinking, gawwaring, backstabbing and headbanging.

of the bad small in their Vancouver loft.

You can see comic evolution at work in the transition from *Comedy Gold*'s old-school, gag-based comedy—Mick Sennett of Richmond, Que., directed the first pie-in-the-face scene in a Keystone Kops picture—to the edgy, observational, at times absurdist style of these three pilots.

Comedy Gold is essentially a historical action plan for making it in comedy-club Vancouver (almost everyone), be ironic (Wayne and Skater), and be innovative because low budgets mean your characters will have to stand out (*SCPT*). Wayne and Skater displayed a penchant for sophisticated satire, even venturing in the occasional Latin joke: ("Give me a martini." "You mean a martini?" "I'll wait two I'll ask for it."). Their popularity boomed in the U.S. through appearances on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, but the duo wanted to stay in Canada and did so at the CBC for over 30 years.

They were the exception. In the beginning, people were simply learning and leaving. Norman Jewison (*Moonstruck*, *The Russians Are Coming*), Chris Beade (*Laugh-In*), Bernard Sade (*Rebuckton*), *The Beverly Hills* and Alan Thicke did move on to the U.S. after learning their trade at the CBC. After multi-tasking as a writer, actor and singer, Thicke used his memories of a TV show out of the



edge comedy—*Saturday Night Live*. That is where covert Canadian comedy has really had an impact. From Dan Aykroyd destroying a fish in a Bass-O-Matic, to

Mike Myers/Wayne's World slot (inspiration—*Scrubber*) and his daughter Doreen, the worst-guessed German talk-show

host, they embraced the Canadian tradition of exploring absurd characters who are not necessarily Canadian. Michaels also went on to co-write-produce *Kids in the Hall*. The troupe used industry-based, absurdist sketches, playing women, satirizing businessmen and crushing people's heads. But there was a twist: it explicitly used Toronto as a

COMEDY COMING UP!

Hitching, Matching and Dispatching
Follow the Funny Family as they help locate their mother who has gone to live in their Newfoundland port. They run an antiques service, wedding hall and funeral parlour. Stars Mary Walsh and Mark Mahoney. Mondays at 8 p.m. ET/PT, beginning Jan. 4, CBC.

I'm Alan Partridge (Canadian President)
A former TV talk show host falls on hard times—divorce, moral living and a job on radio during the presidential election. British import stars Steve Coogan of *The Inevitable Party People*. Tuesdays at 9:40 p.m. ET/PT, beginning Jan. 12, CBC Canada.

Little Britain
Another U.K. import, set in a parallel universe peopled by grotesques, lunatics and social misfits. Stars Matt Lucas and David Walliams. Sundays at 8:30 p.m. ET/PT, beginning Jan. 5, Showcase.

COMEDY COMING UP!

Rebuckton
Best friends Lawrence and Debbie attempt to survive the trials of small-town Newfoundland—working at the only hair salon and stabbing each other in the back. Stars co-creator and writer Andrew Munn and Sherry Ouellet. Tuesdays Jan. 3, 9:30 p.m. ET/PT, CBC pilot.

This Space for Rent
Four graduates—a lawyer, a writer, an actor and an ESL teacher—struggle to find themselves in the land of opportunity, Vancouver. It could be *Friends* on port. Stars Don Telford, Emily Hampshire, Harlowe Sun Jemima and Jason Ayden. Wednesdays Jan. 4, 9 p.m. ET/PT, CBC pilot.

The War at Home
Two parents battle their teenage children to keep their lives in order and drugs and sex at bay. Stars Michael Rieppert. Sundays, 8:30 p.m. ET/PT, Global.

All shows appear a full hour later in Newfoundland.

backdrop for its sketches. While Canadians such as Michael J. Fox, Eric McCormack, Dave Foley and Scott Thompson have infiltrated American sitcoms, disguising their "absents," there is a movement, in the vein of Wayne and Skater, of Canadians who prefer to work here. The outcome is most overtly Canadian, the characters have come out of the closet. While the iconic *SCPT* satirized popular culture, shows like *The Red Green Show*, *Covered Gas* and *Trailer Park Boys* have solidly located their concepts in Canadian territory.

They will soon be joined by CBC's



REFLECTING OURSELVES
Mary Walsh stars in *Hitching, Matching and Dispatching* about a Newfoundland family who run an antiques wedding hall and funeral home. It joins a growing number of shows solidly located in Canada.

Hitching, Matching and Dispatching and *Getting Along Famously*. *Hitching, Matching and Dispatching* stars Mary Walsh and is set in a Newfoundland port where the Funny family runs an antiques service, a wedding hall and a funeral parlour. Walsh plays the matriarch overseeing a clan that includes the dux-witted Darlene who once said she was pregnant because *Audrey* on *The Young and the Restless* was *Getting Along Famously* as a 1964 and revolves around Rip and Ruby, stars of the CBC variety show *It's Ruby and Rip*. Starring Colleen MacInnes and Debbie McGrath, it goes bar-louge into their private lives (think *Les Taylor* and *Richard Berman*), as well as depicting the funny variety show.

These shows reveal a newer strain of comedy that cannot be passed off as American. Canadian themes and locales are proving to be integral to more sophisticated formats, just as *Slosh*, *England*, served as the backdrop for *The Office*, or *New York City* did for *Saturday Night Live*. *This Space for Rent*, *Canadians* can spill out—Barnaby the struggling actor does a bet from *Dostoevsky* and then sings *Love Boy's Everybody's Working for the Weekend* at an audition for a general wants cream commercial. And in *Rebuckton*, "exotic, traditional Newfoundland dancing" is one of the things on view as the character Ouellet strips in a short to *The Newfoundland Waltz*. Canadian comedy has grown up and no longer needs to be ashamed of what lies above the 49th parallel. It's funny. ■

From Aykroyd to Myers, there's a tradition of exploring absurd characters who are not necessarily Canadian

mayor's office in Kirkland Lake, Ont., as the inspiration for *Remond 2 Night*. "It had great credibility with comics. A lot of them thought we were stoned. No—we're just Canadian," remembers Thicke. Lorne Michaels also used his Canadian experience—*The Horst and Loree Terry's Hour*—to launch what turned out to be the mother of cutting-

Start the New Year laughing with an entire week of comedy!



It all kicks off Jan. 1 with Comedy Gold on CBC Television

cbc.com/television



Hockey's rapid comeback



**The game is better than ever
—and so are the TV ratings**

By Edward Koonen

One thing about the new NHL, it's easier on Harry Neale's vocal chords. "There are fewer whistles, which afflicts my job as a colour commentator. I'm not complaining, but I get the chance to speak fewer times because they play on for longer stretches," says the 20-year broadcasting veteran. When Neale's in the booth calling games alongside Bob Cole during the first half of CBC's *Hockey Night in Canada* each week, his job is to analyse the key points during stops in

'With the new rules, there's end-to-end action... You look at the shootouts and notice that people don't sit down. The excitement is at an all-time high.'

play. This season's on ice: free-flowing action means he can be silenced for minutes at a time. "I get the odd glance from the play-by-play guy," he jokes, "as if to say, 'Are you still working here?'"

Still, Neale says, that's good news for fans. "When I watch the games that I'm not working on television—and I watch

a lot of them—there's no doubt about it that they're better to watch."

Midway through the season, after a lockout that some predicted could have spelled the end of the NHL, the pre-dominant media sentiment is that the league and the game of hockey are thriving. A list of rule changes introduced during the hiatus have led to across-the-board increases in scoring and scoring chances, a faster-flowing pace, dramatic third-period comebacks that, Neale says, mean "almost no lead is safe," and heart-wrenching shootouts to decide tied games.

Broadcasters say all of this is good news for television viewers. "Any time that the game improves, we'll be better," says CBC's *Hockey Night in Canada* executive producer Joel Durling. "With the new rules, there's end-to-end action and there are games that are being won late in the game. You look at the shootouts and notice that people don't sit down. The excitement is at an all-time high."

So far, the ratings bear out Durling's assessment. As of mid-November, the average audience for the first game of CBC's weekly doubleheader was up 47 per cent to 1,607,000 viewers and the second game was up 57 per cent to 1,138,000 over the equivalent period in the season before the lockout. Durling points in particular to the Oct. 15 Toronto Maple Leafs-Montreal Canadiens game when 1,940,000 viewers tuned in, an increase of 69 per cent over the equivalent Leafs-Habs game in 2003. "That's more than 500,000 more viewers than we normally would have gotten in the past couple of years. When you think about, on a Saturday night, getting two million viewers, that's a big number in this country," Durling says.

The ratings because isn't limited to the CBC. Over at TSN, the other major national broadcaster of the NHL, the number of viewers per game on the national telecast has increased 135 per cent to 648,000, including a network record 2.1 million viewers during the opening night Ottawa Senators-Toronto Maple Leafs game "Astounding is the word," TSN executive producer Mark Millers says.

Regional broadcasts on Rogers Sportsnet have also been breaking network

THE ICEMEN COME: The season's audience for CBC's *Hockey Night in Canada* has shown a big increase over equivalent periods before the season.

PHOTO BY JASON KAPLAN

A television atlas of Canada

They don't just tell our stories—some series have actually shaped the country

BY GORD McLAUGHLIN

The way Vancouver looked on *De Vinci's Inquiry*, you'd never guess the city had a *Sunshine Coast* turned for it. Over a run of 91 episodes the view was decidedly not, as big-city corner Dominic De Vinci hunted half-lit murder scenes and crashed in the rain. But now that the CBC show has morphed successfully into *De Vinci City Hall*, with the title character assuming the mayor's chair, the drapes have opened somewhat. The new show is visually brighter, with more daytime scenes, fewer Downtown Eastside settings and altogether a wider, lighter landscape.

Over on *Robson Arms*, though, Vancouver is positively buried in night. The anthology drama series, about a collection of defensibly quirky characters living in a faded apartment-hotel in the city's West End, returns to CTV in the

For a half-century, Canadian TV series have helped to define virtues, cities and regions across the country. Never mind just telling our stories, some series have actually shaped the country. *Devilry Ridge* (Global 1993) was all about how people in an overcast Rocky Mountain town couldn't keep their clothes on. Thankfully the cast was attractive, and as we know, the Alberta economy has performed well ever since.

Can it be purely coincidental that Saskatchewan developed into a "have" province just when CTV began taping *Corner Gas*, the first sitcom set in Saskatchewan, not to mention one that was actually funny? Conversely, the short-lived sitcom *Magnum Lake* (CBC 1989) depicted Ontario cottage country as a refuge for the kooky-yet-infatigable. Economically, some sections of the

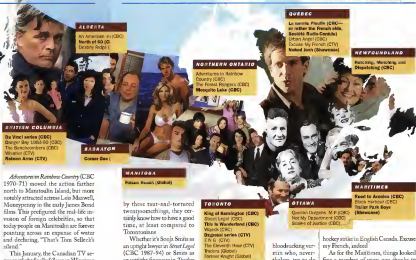
Near North have never recovered.

Can it be purely coincidental that Saskatchewan developed into a 'have' province just when CTV began airing *Corner Gas*, the first Saskatchewan sitcom?

new year. Sean Nilsson, the show's creator, is happy to show a glowing picture of the B.C. capital.

"I don't want to say it's the first series to portray a lighter side of Vancouver," says Nilsson, "but it's certainly the first recent one." Aside from *Inquiry*, Vancouver was lately depicted on *Cold Squad* (CTV 1998-2005), whose hard-boiled characters and moaning body count warned clearly: no one's bound around. "On *Robson Arms* we show a beautiful side, as opposed to the 'underbelly,'" says Nilsson.

most likely because production executives in Toronto could easily drive there. This was literally the case with that iconic Canuck adventure series *The First Wives* (CBC 1963-66), in which spunky youngsters learned right from wrong from stock characters like Indian Joe, Two Rivers and French-Canadian Uncle Basil. Though set in the mythical Indian River, it was actually shot in a conservation area near the town of Kilmory, about 40 minutes north of downtown Toronto back then, a three-day drive today.



Adventures in Rainbow Country (CBC 1970-71) moved the action farther north to Manitoba Island, but more notably attracted actress Leon Maxwell. Money came in the early James Bond films. This prefigured the real-life invasion of foreign celebrities, so that today people on Manitoba are forever pointing across an expanse of water and declaring, "That's Tom Selleck's island."

This January, the Canadian TV series spotlight finally falls upon Winnipeg and environs, with the debut of the hour-long drama *Follow Me* on Global. It will not focus on Winnipeg's current claim to fame, the boxer winn.

"Very few people know that Manitoba has these beautiful beaches," says executive producer Kim Todd. She says that one strip of sand was deemed by a fancy magazine to be among the world's top five beaches. Each season will take place over a summer, ending on Labour Day, in the mythical town of Falcon Beach. The series is shot in near-mythical Winnipeg Beach.)

"It's also rooted in the Canadian mythology of the beach," says Todd, explaining the intended appeal. "In the month of July, Winnipeggers live that myth more intensely than others." Judging from the passions being played out

by these trust-and-tortured twentysomethings, they certainly know how to have a good time, at least compared to Torontoites.

Whether it's Sonja Serrano as an uptight lawyer in *Street Legal* (CBC 1987-94) or Serrano as an uptight financier in *Thelma & Louise* (Global 1996-2000) or Serrano as an uptight TV host in *The Evening Hour* (CTV 2002-05), we are somehow given the impression that Toronto professionals are stoic and emotionally stunted. Maybe that's why they inevitably have destructive affairs, like

English-language series set in Quebec haven't tended to define the province so much as its relationship to the Rest of Canada. *Excess My French* (CTV 1974-76) sought to unite the Two Solitudes by having a young Anglus marry a Québécoise hottie, to the dismay of both sets of parents. But it's only confirmed that the English are uptight

bloodsucking vermin who, nevertheless, try to do the right thing.

hockey sticks in English Canada. Excess my French, indeed.

As for the Maxtimes, things looked fine a number of years ago thanks to such morale series as *The Road to Avonlea* (CBC 1989-96). But can the advent of *Trailer Park Boys* (Showcase 2001 to present) really be good news for Nova Scotia? The judgment handed down by TV is unsparring. Back then, quaint, teardrinking, upright people who knew how to fix a corner New rugged, resistance-shaking harem who knew how to tie one on.

In the end, what's great about these series is not what they do (or do not) do for their specific regional settings. Rather, it is how they coalesce to form the tenets of our elusive national identity. Small-town people are lovable fools. Big-city professionals are neurotic and arrogant.

And any time Canadiana vacationers near a mountain or a lake, everybody's clothes come off. ■

English-language series set in Quebec haven't tended to define the province so much as its relationship to the Rest of Canada

those murky TV news folk on *EN 6* (CTV 1990-94).

Probably the most honest portrayal of Canada's largest city was in the vampire-op drama *Freaky Knight* (Global 1992-96). Only there did we learn that Toronto the Good is populated by

and the French are leery. (The misdeeds of spoken French were much more heard.) *Love of Chop* (Radio-Canada 1986-88), about a junior hockey star's move to the NHL, was popular enough in Quebec, but a dubbed version went over like a



HEADLINE ACT: Terry Burman, Editor-in-Chief of CBC News, notes Canada's what they needed, and then reported

Now the good news

CBC News is about to unveil a thorough rethink

BY SUZANNE ROBERTS

"We are in a period of considerable change in the media world," says CBC News supremo Terry Burman. "In the next five years, there will likely be as many changes in the way Canadians consume news and information—as the way that news is produced—as we have seen in the past 50 years."

Some significant changes can be seen very soon, when CBC News in January unveils an across-the-board rethinking

of its look, sound, and—most significant of all—its content on its various networks and platforms.

The changes are being made with the public in mind. As Burman, Editor-in-Chief of CBC News, explains: "As we began to shape our long-term strategy, we concluded that a starting point must be a detailed, extensive study of what Canadians want and need from their news media. That led to our News Study, and our efforts to respond to it."

In the most extensive study ever made of the subject, 1,200 Canadians were asked what they thought about all Canada's news media, including the CBC.

The response was in part boring: "When it comes to 'how we tell the story,'" said the subsequent report, "we're (or were) too stuffy, too predictable and, frankly, a bit boring."

So—debating on Jan. 9, as the crucial first stage begins in Canada's election campaign—here comes the new news with overhauled graphics, colour scheme and music, and rather more profound changes to the way CBC reports the news.

As well as commissioning the survey, Burman oversaw the subsequent report, "CBC News Study: What Canadians Want and Need from their news media," a copy of which landed a few months ago on the desk of every news and current affairs employee at CBC TV, CBC Newsradio, CBC Radio and its affiliates.

Canadians list their opinions about radio, TV and Internet journalism as known by way of diaries, hand-held electronic devices and focus groups. Whatever the method, and although

Having now reminded itself of the first rule of broadcasting—'Know thy audience'—CBC News is poised to transform itself

many positive things were said as well, themes began to emerge on the downside: the CBC was seen by some as being "for older people," "not cool," "not entertaining," "not visually appealing," "depressing and confusing," "elitist." "It's all monotone," "the CBC hasn't changed in 20 years"—"it makes me fall asleep."

Having now reminded itself of the first rule of broadcasting—"Know thy audience"—CBC News is poised to transform itself. Over the past year, the feedback, from users of TV, radio and the Internet, has been analyzed in 85 in-house discussion groups involving a total of 465 staff across Canada. Their challenge was as clear as it was ambitious, Burman reminded them in a memo attached to the News Study: "If [this] reflects what Canadians think of Canada's news media, and what they expect of their CBC, what do we intend to do about it?"

What have they done about it? The most obvious changes will be, of course, the cosmetic ones: creative traffic and

COUNTDOWN: The network will soon offer more breaking news and more live coverage as the day unfolds

striking graphics. "We had to ask ourselves, 'How are we presenting ourselves to the public?'" said Burman. "Do we come off as an integrated, renewed organization? The answer could only be 'Yes, if we changed the way we looked and the way we sounded, and made it more interesting, made it more engaging, more accessible and more contemporary.' And that's the impression people will have when we introduce the new look and sound."

Burman wants to keep the details a secret. He says the graphics will be "dynamic, strong, clean and accessible. They will cut through a lot of the clutter viewers see on television today." The colours will change, though he won't say to what. "We'll like viewers to have a bit

of a purpose when they tune in for the first time... so we're not going away too much of the colour palette."

As for the music: "We are designing a monospace—five notes—that will start all of our news programming on CBC Radio and Television and link all of our news programs on all platforms. This will be a signal to viewers and listeners that what they're about to listen to, or watch, is a CBC News program."

For Burman, however, it is what's underneath that matters most. Many Canadians said they want in-

COMING UP ON CBC NEWS

Some key recommendations from CBC's News Study project.

More Original Journalism • By focusing on fewer stories and doing them better—and [avoiding] repetitive stories tied to empty news metrics. This would free up time to emphasize: accuracy, quality and public service.

Broaden Definition of 'News' • Though most have listed stories as interesting, CBC's diversity more controversial stories asking tough questions with accuracy, and more positive stories about personal accomplishment.

Canada and the World • Expand CBC's foreign coverage by making international local and better connecting the world to our audiences at home—Create an on-air program CBC Africa/TV/Video World News Unit to make this happen.

Combat Complexity • Avoid the middle trap of "breaking" complicated stories in convoluted, black-and-white ways. The richness of thoughtful discussion is often found in the grey—in critical thinking.

Be Risky • Create, implement and keep revisiting a "risk-taking" culture. Identify the acceptable risks—Develop incentives for experimentation.

Be Funny • The news should include more of a sense of fun and humour into its storytelling—there's a reason why Rick Mercer and Jon Stewart's *The Daily Show* are so popular. Let's learn from it.

Be Proactive • Keeping within CBC journalistic standards, on-air hosts need to be given leeway to spend a bit of time on the proceedings and to allow for a more provocative presentation when warranted.





ADJUSTING THE PICTURE. The most obvious changes will be, of course, the colour scheme. The new colour scheme is being kept in secret.

creased international coverage, but "international made local." There is also a new weather service, and within a year, a new sports service, as well as more "news worth paying attention to" and less "ambient noise." Reporters will be

Here comes the new news: with overhauled graphics, colour scheme and music, and rather more profound changes to the way it reports

encouraged to "park excessive 'curiosities' at the door." Among other things, they will "get out of the parking lot" in doing stand-ups, and "get off the hill" in covering politics.

"Canadians generally seem to feel that the media define news in a very narrow way," Barman told me. "Journalists often see the world in compartments, narrow categories, that don't connect to the

daily lives of Canadians. So their message to us was to be far broader in what we define as news—be far broader and deeper in what stories we allow on your newscasts. And to a journalist, that's an unenviable issue." The goal will be to have far more "waterproof" stories than simply hits of "agenda" news.

Heston Dyes, Program Director for CBC Newsworld, says that the network will be offering more of both: more breaking news and live coverage as the day unfolds, but clipped off in the evening by a ground-breaking documentary. Even current-affairs programs such as *CBC News at Six* are going broader and deeper than their traditional newsmagazine format.

"We are plotting new constellations," says Julie Barman, CBC's Director of Current Affairs. One strategy is a "journalistic mosaic" of the week, mixing drama with investigative reporting. In January, the fifth story will air *Black Doves: The Next Revolution*, which explores through drama and journalism the potential

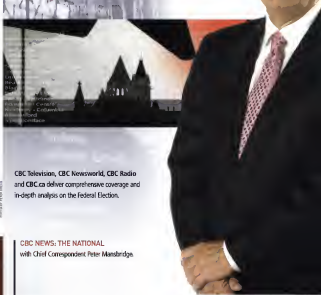
international response for dealing with a hypothetical emergency. Barman says producers grappled with the fact that viewers are scared enough, so its theme is not alarmist. "It's warning people with information. We don't want to terrify viewers," she says. "We want to give them the tools to love their lives."

While there are changes that viewers will see immediately in January, the process of thoroughly renewing a news and current affairs operation as extensive as the CBC's will, says Barman, evolve over the next two years. Over that period, it will lead to the creation of new feature segments and new programs highlighting the value-added journalism CBC News wants to emphasize.

In a note to staff several months ago about the CBC News Study, Barman acknowledged initial reluctance on the part of some CBC staff. But he said the CBC is committed to this mandate for change and that his colleagues are, too.

"Revolutions—even polite Canadian ones—require bold action, and this document outlines a blueprint for bold action... If, as the expression goes, 'journalistic cynicism is the refuge of the mediocre,' these discussions [in response to the News Study] never slipped into cynicism. They were often skeptical and challenging, as they should have been, but this only strengthened the outcome... This is not the end of this story. Far from it. It's a wonderfully inspiring beginning. Onward." ■

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THE END

MAGGIE BAILEY

1904-2005

What to do when you have siblings to feed?
Become a community-minded moonshiner.

Maggie Bailey, nee Davidson, was born on Aug. 31, 1904, in the Appalachian foothills of Indian County, Ky., about 36 km from Louisville. She was the second of eight siblings—three boys and five girls. When their parents, Joseph and Polly, died young, Maggie and her brothers and sisters. Coal mining was the main industry there, but the work was another trade, bootlegging moonshine. "It was the only way she knew how to care for her family," said nephew Don Halcomb, who was brought up by "Aunt Maggie" after his father was killed in the Battle of the Bulge.

At 17, Maggie began selling her illegal brew around the mountains. Harlan, like many Kentucky counties, was dry, so liquor was a profitable underground commodity. At night, moonshiners boiled the corn, sugar and water mash in copper stills over open flames. "But Maggie was cut out of a different cloth from most bootleggers," said Eugene Goss, who was her lawyer for 35 years. She sold from her small, scratched and painted wooden house on a fireboard. No matter the hour, cherry lights adorned their pickup trucks along a drive paved in coal dust that backed door. Seeing the headlights, Maggie would emerge wearing her pendulous and "Midwest Driveline" brass patch, hands dug in her apron pockets, money for change in one, moonshine in the other: the rock \$1 for a half pint, \$5 for three half pints, and had the customer goodbye.

Despite her discretion, the police hauled Maggie into court hundreds of times for moonshining, and state troopers raided regularly. Slowly, Maggie broke up to 30 different farms, garages and sheds across her holding property here were in her name, some in the names of others. When the "no women" rule, they often either couldn't find the contraband, or it covered it in a location not specified on the search warrant, so they couldn't confiscate it. Her attorneys half-joked that Maggie "knew more about law than most lawyers."

Between 1941 and 1943, Maggie did spend time in a women's reformatory after she was found with 250 half gallons of moonshine. And in 1965, after a raid, she was forced to pay up on hundreds of thousands of dollars state troopers found stuffed in a feedlot. She and her husband, Lora Bailey (whose she eventually separated from), spent their wedding night in a Virginia jail, after they tried to cross the state border to catch a honey-moon train while there was a women out for her. The next morning, according to Halcomb's wife, half of Indian County was there to pour bail.

Maggie put much of the money she made from moonshine back into her community. "She donated, fed and cared for others," remembered Halcomb, "and she opened her house to many friends to court." When a family couldn't afford coal for heat, she provided it. When a student couldn't go to college, she paid for it. The reward for her generosity was acquittal—rare and again. "No matter what came against her, didn't make a difference how strong the case, the jury just wouldn't convict her," recalled Goss. "They felt sympathy for her, and would make the run a good business."

Maggie wouldn't sell to children or to "drunkards," as she called them. Where other bootleggers set up tables for buyers to drink at, Maggie quietly insisted them to leave her property promptly. She understood the potency of moonshine, what it could do to a person, and friends say Maggie never drank an ounce in her life. Always up on current affairs, Maggie read any newspaper she could get, and watched television news regularly. Whenever she learned of a particularly reprehensible act or criminal, she'd shake her head and mutter, "I'm glad I'm not doing but a good old-fashioned bootlegger."

At 96 years of age, Maggie found Christ. When one of her sons was diagnosed with breast cancer and then died, she began reflecting on her own life. Soon she went to visit Rev. Howard Farmer of Owsboro Church of God, and he blessed her in holy water. "I believe about a change. God gave her chance to accept Him as Lord and Saviour," said Farmer. "Everybody will have that chance. But one of them, you hardly ever hear of it."

It was around that time that Maggie stopped selling moonshine. She was getting old and tired, unable to negotiate with shady customers and outsmart the police. Her memory was fading, and Maggie, a tall, sharp-faced woman who in her youth had dark hair that she put up in a bun even as she greyed, married Harlan Nursing Home. She went to Wednesday church services twice every week. Recently, for her 101st birthday, 319 people celebrated with punch and cake at the nursing home. Birthday wishes were sent from President George W. Bush, Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher, and University of Kentucky basketball coach Tommy Smith. The county judge and court clerk went there. So did Halcomb, Goss, and Farmer, who said a prayer.

On Dec. 5, 2005, Maggie Bailey, 101, died at the Harlan Nursing Home of complications from pneumonia. BY CATHY GALLI





Journalism is the first draft of history, and year-end reviews are its cheat sheets. Meet the famous, infamous, and anonymous people who made 2005 a fascinating year.

Section by Kate Fillon and Patricia Treble with Martin Patriquin

'THE NARROW NOTION OF EVERY PERSON FOR HIMSELF DOES NOT BELONG IN TODAY'S WORLD.' MICHAËLLE JEAN

MICHAËLLE JEAN

Almost from the start, there were questions: About her politics: was she or was she not sympathetic to separatism? About her husband, filmmaker Jess Gervais (Laford), and her politics: About her qualifications to be the May 17 Queen Elizabeth II's representative in Canada. And the biggest question of all: Just who was Michaëlle Jean?

On paper, she may have seemed the quintessential Liberal appointee—female, a visible minority, a journalist—but perhaps unconsciously, Paul Martin made a daring choice. Instead of a civil establishment figure, he selected a woman with "a past" and soon found himself feeling the pleasure to defend his choice, while Jean used a calm, unprovoked way that she and Laford were "fully committed to Canada."

Throughout, she maintained a quiet dignity which, along with

★ ENTRANCES OF THE YEAR ★

A new governor general, a fiery general, and, finally, the Next One

her remarkable life story—arrived in Canada as a young Haitian refugee, working with battered women and immigrants, learning to speak five languages fluently—helped calm the critics. The official seal of approval came when her family had a relaxed tea with the Queen at Balmoral, where Jean appeared to feel not just comfortable, but in her element.

By the time the new Governor General was formally introduced to the people of Canada on Sept. 27, she had perfected a warm, thoughtful grace that presided over the ceremony. And in her first speech to Parliament, she dispatched any lingering doubts

about her credentials and allegiances: "The first of the 'two solitudes' that for too long described the character of this country is past," she announced, calling for an end to ethnic and linguistic divisions.

Her good looks and her manner—soft-spoken, with a gleam of steel—made as much of an impression as her words, particularly on male journalists. The Globe's John Ibbotson rhymed about her "this beautiful young Canadian in British birth, with a smile that makes you catch your breath—and a daughter who literally personifies our future, and you look at them and

you think: Yes, this is our great achievement, this is the Canada that Canada wants to be."

And yet, there was tension, too, between the nature of her role, and her own personal style. There's nothing as difficult about Michaëlle Jean, who likes to hug people and work the crowd. But despite her warmth, she's not honey: above all, she has her ear to good news and bad.

Part of it is simply that while she takes her new role seriously, she's still very much her own woman. Sometimes, she's looked more like a political activist than the Queen's representative: when advocates for the homeless staged a sit-in at her office, she didn't just raise with them. She also played to voice her own concern: the Prime Minister—and did so.

She has, in short, brought a sense of common sense and a whiff of mystery to St. James's Palace. There will not, it seems, be quiet years.

BRIDGE BUILDING

For three decades the military has been **Rick Hilbur's** life, and he has some rather strong views on how it should be run. When the chief of the defense staff blew into his new post in February, he found all too many in declining war on complacency, cutting equipment, public relations—and copping from the politicians. "This is your army and navy and armed forces," he barked at a St. John's crowd. "If you like it, support it—and if you don't, get involved in helping to change it and choose it."

The 30-year-old Newfoundland-
born has been on the front lines
from Bosnia to Afghanistan, and
still thinks—and talks—like a sol-
dier. Not one for sugarcoating,
Hillier pledged in July that Canada's
special forces, Joint Task
Force 2, would not out the "deser-
table" murderers and scumbags
who fill al Qaeda's ranks. Canadian
latter-warriors were shocked, but
Defence Minister Bill Graham
backed him up, warning the nation
to prepare for casualties in Afghanistan.

Believed by the rank and file, Hillier has also shown an unstinting aptitude for marshalling federal dollars—and for being on the right place at the right time. Less than three weeks after taking charge, Hillier got an impressive home-owning gift: \$42.1 billion over five years to pay for 5,000 more full-time troops, better training, and new equipment.

Hillier commands respect all right, but he's still managed to keep a sense of humor about himself: his official bio on the National Defence website claims the country's top soldier "runs slowly, plays hockey poorly and with poor skill level."

**'WE ARE THE
CANADIAN FORCES,
AND OUR JOB IS TO BE
ABLE TO KILL PEOPLE.'
GENERAL RICK HILLIER**

**STUDY GROUP**

In an overcast shoot-out last month against the Montreal Canadiens, Sidney Crosby barreled in on defenseman Jose Theodore. He lifted a foot to fake a shot, dipped his shoulder and then, just when it seemed the cat's mistle kid was out of range, miraculously shifted the puck to his backhand and snuffed over Theodore's shoulder. The goal sent the home-state Pittsburgh Penguins fans into a frenzy and the goalie's water bottle boomed into the air.

It's not often an 18-year-old model can make a woman all-star look clueless. Finally, the New One has arrived.

The last time a player came on the scene burdened with that nickname, he was no first, but an inch, brooding bulk from London, Ont. named Eric Lindros, frightening on the ice and complicated off it. Crosby is a first-foot, 10-inch streak of lightning from tiny Cole Harbour, N.S., who wears preposterous little light and plays with a quality we haven't seen on anyone in awhile, so

A dazzling puckhandler with winning instincts on the ice, he didn't build the new NHL, but he may well have inspired it. Currently, Crosby is enjoying the rule changes meant to open up the game. The first overall pick in last spring's draft, he's averaging a point a game and has already proved himself a marquee name in a league desperate for a savior after the canceled 2004-05 season.

Like the *Gros Ours* before him, Crosby fills arenas and draws crowds to autograph sessions. At games, young and not-so-young women wave upon seeing the team's millionaire—who had sponsored deals with Rolex, Gatorade and Volvo even before playing his first pro game—so marry them. He conducts post-game interviews (in both French and English) with genuine candor, and even makes a cameo (he's with the Penguins' owner and captain, Mario Lemieux).

And, as he's not likely to let us forget, Sidney Crosby has a wicked backhand. **M**

DOI: 10.1002/for



¹ Copyright © 2006 by the American Journal of Public Health, 0893-4262/06/\$12.00 DOI: 10.2196/ajph.2006.0934262



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'I'M SAYING, WHERE'S THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFEET?'—SHERIFF JACK STEPHENS. 'THE CANADIANS CAN SHOW UP, BUT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSEN'T GET TO ST. BERNARD PARISH?'

★ HEROES ★

Daring rescues and just getting back on the bus—courage came in many forms this year

GHANAIAN SOLDIERS IN AFGHANISTAN (1)
Now on the frontlines in the forgotten war, Canada's peacekeepers are paying a price as they help secure and rebuild Kandahar Province. Woodfield of Eastern Passage, N.S., was killed as a Moslem bus was hit by a rocket. In December, three JTFA commandos were wounded in action, and three more lost their lives and a journalist was hurt by a roadside bomb.

NEWSCOVER VERNAN SENGAR & KEROUEX TEAM
While U.S. officials squabbled post-Katrina, CBC's emergency workers were saving lives just outside New Orleans. On the scene just two days after the storm hit, they pulled 150 people to safety in flooded St. Bernard parish.

JORDAN ELKARIS
In May, after a car hit a tree and burst into flames in Snyderbridge, Ont., Mahabadi ran to the scene, pulled the driver's window and was pulling him out when the car began rolling backwards. Running alongside, he finished the rescue in two seconds before the car exploded. Mahabadi got Canada's Medal of Bravery and, possibly, a future as a transman.

JUSTICE JOHN GOWEN (1)
Thorne (6) judge holds the Liberal's feet to the fire in the country's toughest. The Adams' grab and backdoor deals he helped uncover have already changed the political scene. So we'll forgive him for haunting the election.

ROBO AND LIVE (1)
Incredible Irish wedding organized to play 100,000 songs to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The wedding was held in the town of Kesh, Co. Londonderry, and about 30,000 guests were in attendance. The wedding was held in the town of Kesh, Co. Londonderry, and about 30,000 guests were in attendance.

MARIA HUSICKA (1)
The young trans woman who lost her life in the 2010 Vancouver Gay Games. She was killed in the 2010 Vancouver Gay Games. She was killed in the 2010 Vancouver Gay Games.

REYNOLDS SCHUCH
The Ontario mining millionaire opened up his wallet this year, giving \$20 million to McGill's music faculty and another \$25

million to the University of Calgary's engineering school. He was in his previous gifts to York and Western, and about 30,000 students will get his scholarship this year.

MCCARTNEY SISTERS
After an altercation, IRA members killed Robert McCartney, a Catholic, outside a pub. In typical fashion, the IRA accepted to secure witnesses into silence. McCartney's five sons would not do that, ensuring that everyone in the bar knew who killed their brother and he they should tell. At first, many witnesses claimed they were in the bathroom at the time of the killing. Then the IRA offered to show them the bar and the bar owner told them the truth. McCartney's sons would not do that, ensuring that everyone in the bar knew who killed their brother and he they should tell. At first, many witnesses claimed they were in the bathroom at the time of the killing.

DART
The Canadian Forces disaster assistance relief team began the

year in tsunami-ravaged Sri Lanka and ended it in Pakistan's earthquake zone. Criticism questioned the team's work, but the thousands who received clean drinking water, or had their wounds treated, never will.

STEPHEN KNIGHT
The self-dubbed Newfoundland police constable won his second Medal of Bravery for rescuing a bouncer who was being attacked by a knife-wielding gang in January. Knight didn't even realize the guy had stabbed him until he got to police HQ.

ADRIAN HARTWIG & KERRY HARTWIG (1)
To avoid abduction by the rebel army, 40,000 kids in northern Uganda leave their homes at night and trek to the relative safety of Gulu and other northern towns. They are sent to their parents, but they are not safe. They are sent to their parents, but they are not safe.

ARTABE SIMARD (1)
The former child star found the courage to go public in May, revealing that Guy Cloutier—Quebec's controversial legislator, recently serving time for child molestation—actually abused her from the age of 11. She launched a \$1.2-million suit to cover treatment costs and lost revenue, but settling costs of a court case.

LOMBARDI (1)
In July, bombs go off on the London transit system, killing 52. Lombardi's mission: get a night back on the bus and tube. And set up a website: www.renewalofcanada.com.

JOHN GOWEN
The coach of the Colorado Avalanche (1) was fired for his role in the 2001 Stanley Cup Finals. He was fired for his role in the 2001 Stanley Cup Finals.

FRANK SENGAR
Didn't just shelter 100,000. He was on the scene in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. He was on the scene in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

RELIEF POWERS
Kids raised their piggy banks, churches held bake sales, and philanthropists wrote million-dollar cheques to help those devastated by the Asian tsunami. Altogether, individuals raised more than \$200 million.

NELSON MANDELA (1)
With more than one 60th of South Africa's 100 million people, he will go down as the president of the nation. He will go down as the president of the nation.

SKAGGIE O'NEAL (1)
Michael Gosselin would still be an anonymous homeless if it wasn't for a certain one-foot-one inch, 115 lb firmly giant. In September, the Miami Heat centre returned Gosselin to legally selling meals and having a home at a gay couple in Miami Beach. O'Neal's story would have been in so a rescue police officer, tagged down a cop, who arrested Gosselin.

THE JURY'S STILL OUT

Lord Black, Scooter Libby, the Minnesota Vikings' 'Love Boat'—and cheerleaders in a real still tale

CONRAD BLACK (4)

Continued charged with fraud in November. Lord Black says he didn't put his hand in the Vikings' cookie jar. Trial processes to be opened in every sense.

CAROLINA PANTHERS CHEERLEADERS (4)

Two porn porn girls were allegedly caught having sex in a bathroom stall in Tampa, Fla. Story goes that one of the girls came out slugging and waving a fake ID. Both ended up in charges—and a sex scandal is on the loose at the stadium.

MACKEY'S VALLEY PIPELINE (4)

The three-decade-old dream of a \$220-billion pipeline bringing Arctic gas to southern markets exists a little more likely. The consortium behind the project said it hopes to ratify benefits and secure agreements with some halcyon Aboriginal groups this month. Next obstacle: public hearings.

JEAN MARIE (4)

The secretary of the former trans-acting lawyer charged by the Ontario commission from, experience PK, some tourists on TV, videos of envelopes stuffed with cash and forced "donations" to the Liberal Party of Canada. Black's trial starts next year.

YOUNG BERTON (4)

Those might have been realtors of the Colorado Rockies in the sex in March 2004. But at a press conference following the holding, Carole's NHE, re-statement, Bertoni looked ready to blow again. Why? Because Moore had the tendency to sue for a lost cause?

PRIVATE HEALTH CARE (4)

In June, the Supreme Court endorsed the right to private medical insurance if the public system can't provide timely access to health care. The

HONOLULU GROUP (4)

More than 1,000 investors got a shock in August when Quebec's financial regulator froze the mutual fund's assets. It's not clear how much claims will ever re-open, an audit revealed a \$10-million accounting discrepancy.

TREVIN SMITH (4)

Ruby Smith's new daughter-in-law is accused of having sex with a Reggae woman with out revealing his HIV positive status. He faces a similar charge in Surrey, B.C. As part of his bail conditions, the married father of two must provide safe sex.

GORD DOBARRA (4)

Ontario's former minister and ex-board member of Royal Group Technologies was named in an RCMP investigation of the company. Resigned from cabinet, claiming he will be vindicated—but will his political career ever recover?

MINNESOTA VIKINGS (4)

Seventeen players are being investigated for the "Love Boat scandal," an alleged orgy connected to the team. Just the latest in a series of charges of drug use, alcohol and the possession of a drug-smoking device, the Original Whitehouse.

ALBERTA DISCOUNTS COMMISSION (4)

Allegations of a non-work commitment, complete with an affidavit on sex. And despite a non-portable ABC of disclosures in securities probes, the RCMP is now on the case.

LEWIS (RODGER) LARRY (4)

VP Dick Cheney's newspaper is embroiled in the scandal over revealing the look of an under cover CIA operative's name. The top of the story, however, is now in October.

ROYAL-ONTARIO MUSEUM (4)

Auditor David Lockwood's new addition looks over Toronto's most famous like a Big Steel Man. With a proposed course tower now closed, will they pay for the tower?

RUSH TO JUDGMENT

A politician's drive, a past experience, a moral GMP leader and Gary Galtier

JADAM HERRIN (4)

Too many dead. Enough said.

MARGOT PIROGNET (4)

Former Chilean dictator, 85, charged with helping plan murders and ending millions.

FRANK ZEMBLA (4)

Polishman's former shipped back to Germany to avoid trial.

GRAY GILBERT (4)

Best rocker charged with child molestation in Virginia. Guess he was teaching the girls English.

TOM DALY (4)

Former prime minister's returned Republican leader was charged with money laundering this year.

VERON GOVERNMENT (4)

Troops kill hundreds of civilian protesters. Meet U.S. ally.

HAS ANYONE SEEN MY DEALER?

Macaulay Culkin, André Boissclair, Kate Moss, Pete Dinklage—what a long strange trip it's been

ANDRÉ BOISSCLAIR (4)

Hopefully fabulous politician's his way into the Parti Québécois. But the new leader says his cocaine was a "youthful indiscretion"—when he was a cabinet minister, he was in the drug trade.

MACAULAY CULKIN (4)

In June, the 16-year-old was charged with driving around with 17 g of pot and some Xanax. He was in Oklahoma City, but that likely had nothing to do with it.

KATE MOSS (4)

Well-known, there's cocaine in the fashion industry?

PETE DINKLAGE (4)

Newslife, there's cocaine in the music industry?

EMINEM (4)

And sleeping pills? Eminem needed his European tour and checked into rehab.

COLIN FARRELL (4)

The hell boy's in treatment for prescription drug addiction.

the new chairman of the city's police board.

ALYSSA KATZ (4)

Five years after the U.S. invasion, the spirit of capitalism has taken hold. Production of heroin is up 1,000 per cent in Afghanistan, now the world's largest exporter of the drug.

KATE MOSS (4)

Well-known, there's cocaine in the fashion industry?

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MACKEY (4)

The ministerial B.C. Morison on Party leader and self-styled Prince of Po, a car on bail and fighting extradition to the U.S. after the Drug Enforcement Administration got him based on Canadian over-the-counter seed sales to Americans.

GOVERNMENT LOVE (4)

Another year of court cases for the drug dealer. In February, criminal drug and assault charges were pleaded down to simple possession of the staged items and good deed. By September, she was back on a drug treatment course. Now she's on again, working on her new album. Stay tuned. B.



THIS HAS BEEN ONE MASSIVE SMEAR JOB FROM 10 Z, AND IT WILL HAVE A SURPRISE ENDING—A COMPLETE VINDICATION OF THE DEFENDANTS. —CONRAD BLACK, POST INDICTMENT



'I CANNOT EXAGGERATE HOW HARD THIS WAS FOIE, BUT THE POLITICAL CRISIS AFFECTING CANADA IS TOO DANGEROUS FOR BLIND PARTISANSHIP. THOUNTRY MUST COME FIRST.' **BELINDA STRONACH**

* MERGERS *

Strange bedfellows and long lost lovers paired up—and Bill Clinton found another new partner

CHARLES & CAMILLA (1)
After a fairy tale wedding, two heirs, a scandalous affair, a messy divorce and strange wedding guests, Charles was married to neither the love of his life. That changed in April, when, after a three-divide courtship, he finally wed Camilla—who promptly suggested he give up polo. Even the public is warming to the woman Diana once dubbed “the Rosewiler.”

people of *Newsweek* *America*, who voted for a Conservative but ended up in Paul Martin's pocket. At least Martin's still wary-eyed about his new minister, who propped up the minority government as a critical vote—and seems to like him. For now.

WEDDING & CIVIL
DELA GASTRO (2)
When he isn't selling railroad heating oil to South America's poor or lawacting as a trade agent on the brink of capitalism, the Venezuelan president is bonding with Fidel. By strengthening economic ties, the pair hopes to create a post-socialist movement that Latin America is compelled to notice. Castro controls the taps on the U.S.'s largest source of oil.

UNION & FULCRUM
In an industry dominated by how the network, it's a little funny seeing when two animating studios make a friendly bid for rival *Telescan* in a deal valued at \$12.5 billion. Earning any regulatory hurdles, the two lovebirds will, by early 1994, become one, *Loon Ltd.*, the largest nickel producer in the world.

REVENUE JOHN & DAVID THOMSON (3)
Like Charles and Camilla, they've had to wait a while—and will be wed in the same registry office the royals favored. Sir John and Camilla (Baron's big day, Dec. 21, when gay civil unions become legal in Britain). Now on who's singing at the lavish party afterwards.

WASH-QUEBEC & QUINQUE BOIS
QUINQUE BOIS
One of the biggest cash cows in Quebec has scored up to 30-

port again to reveal a secret section of the Montreal waterfront by building a gargantuan entertainment complex. It's headed by Louis Vuitton and Proton Fox, but interest groups are up in arms, protesting the idea of playing casino to date on the impoverished Pointe St. Charles neighborhood.

JUSTIN TRUDEAU & SOPHIE GAGNON (5)
Famous offspring of a rich prime minister makes gorgeous, bilingual former TV personality in May. No politicians are involved. No bride and groom soon off in his father's easy convertible. The Earth continues to spin on as, alas, the spring flowers arrive, and everywhere, children are

GOVERNOR CAMPBELL & GABRIEL WATSON
In March, the former CBC newsman joined the B.C. Liberal

as a star candidate. Then, after winning the provincial election in May, Premier Campbell surprised observers by giving the photograph, but relatively inexperienced Taylor the plan cabinet appointment finance minister. No suggestion of backslapping, but they sure look good together on camera.

ELANA BAKER & KANA KATZ
Hungarian Jewish sisters Baker, 43, and Katz, 38, were separated during the Second World War, when they were shipped off to different concentration camps. They survived, and finally found each other 61 years later, courtesy of a computer database. They discovered they'd both been in Israel since 1945.

MOLOCH & COORS
It's an unusual \$1-billion merger, Molokai Coors Co. unveiled the venerable Canadian company to become the fifth largest brewer in the world. Hander to

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PETER MACKEY & SOPHIE DESMARAIS
She's the daughter of one of the richest, most powerful men in Canada, Me's a politician from New Glasgow, N.S., with a yen for billionaire blond haircuts. Should the romance last—a big if, given Mackay's track record—it would be a very photogenic merger of power and politics. If she dumps him, well, it won't be the first time Mackay's looked for solace in his dad's post-political

NEIL DIAMOND & RICK RUBIN
Rap-loving producer Rubin has created a niche market by sequencing out the last drops of genius from the likes of Diamond. He's been for one upper Neil Diamond, whose diamond career defined the schmaltziness of the '70s. On 12 Sept. 10, Diamond's oldest son, Steven, replaced by Rubin, 40-year-old and [gasp] entrepreneur of notoriety. Get this: Rubin/Diamond gave it four stars. **M**

* MÉNAGES À TROIS *

DARRIN GOLD & PETER BARRER
Barré wanted to get together with Peter Dinklage, which had its eye on Montreal's *Le Devoir* editor-in-chief or said so, anyway—but the missing person was afraid of commitment.

BOB & THOMAS & THOMAS
The Globe and Mail ends up the dull sequel of the year's weirdest corporate trio: Canada's biggest phone company, *Bigge* paper, and richest guy.

NEIL MARTIN & JACK LAYTON & BOB MARSHALL
After all the NDP has done for Big 1 show, it must have been embarrassing to see the Canadian Actors' Guild leader with a star with the Liberal PM. **M**



* BREAKUPS *

They seemed so happy—Peter and Belinda, Jason and Ricky, the PM and his NDP crutch

BELINDA DINKLAGE & PETER DINKLAGE (1)

It could have been so romantic: Peter and Belinda in Parliament, cooing away. “For once the mood’s” “No, you, silly!” Also, pols are in the way. She bolted to the Liberals days before a crucial confidence motion on budget measures—and hours after a day with her boyfriend during which she uttered not one word other than “seeing him is so weird with this family pet.” “Dogs are best,” MacKay said. *Coach*

KEELAN SORNEY & ANGELINA RIBIC

The Montreal Canadian should’ve interviewed from her cozy home, having a former daydream

and Playboy model wife doesn’t lead to marital bliss. In August, Sorney and Ribic split, three years after their Vegas wedding (another customary tale)

RICKY RAY & JASON MAAS

The dynamic quartetbacking due for the television fish or shell pivot duties on and off for the past four years, and credited beautifully down the stretch this year to tell the team was the big game. But just before Grey Cup weekend, it emerged that Maas would be on his way to Hamilton. He’d been brought in now during the playoffs to wiggle his way out of late-game pinches, but he watched from the bench as the Falcons won the Cup

THE LIBERALS & THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (2)

Cost of the pro-rap 34.6 billion in new social spending. The vices NDP will keep Liberals alive in confidence vote. Length of the marriage: longer than Beale Zolner’s, but not by too much. The grounds for divorce: NDP gets angry when the Liberals announce a new health care proposal and corporate tax cuts, and Liberals begin taking napping spots for granted

SANDRA OH & ALEXANDER PRYKE (3)

In a defining scene of last year’s runaway hit *Silence*, directed by Pryke, Sandra Oh breaks up with her onscreen boyfriend by belting him across the face with a newspaper before it and if real life were so simple. In April, the Grey’s Anatomy cast had to go to court to file divorce papers. No word on whether her soon-to-be ex-husband took solace in a new rising trap of his own.

JENNIFER ANISTON & BRAD PITT (4)

Let’s see: they’re a rich, famous, good-looking Hollywood couple. Solace? Get a divorce. Have the mini scandal off with a re-hashed scandal who more fights as a divorcee, while the woman keeps her way through some of the courted conduct of the moment. Give each new couple its own clothing rack: Brangelina, meet Versailles. (It never will)

VICTOR YUSHCHENKO & YULIA TYMOCHENKO

In September, disheveled Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko fired broad heavy potshots against Yulia Tymoshenko and the rest of the cabinet after just seven months in power, charging they had “lost their man spirit.” Facing a corrupt, economically challenged country will do that. Next to Tymoshenko’s hairdresser: Heidi has left the building. *W*

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Build it your way. *Habitat*
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Building Stronger
Building Smarter

★ HOME WRECKERS ★

A pillow-flopped receptress, a digital wonder bar and an aging ex-premier prove impossible to resist

ANGELINA Jolie (1)

Serial home wrecking ball of former First the pillow-flopped, knee-floored, globe-trotting CNN goodwill ambassador came between Laura Dern and Billy Bob Thompson. Then, in 2005, she proved too much temptation for the very married Brad Pitt. Not since Elizabeth Taylor broke up David Reynolds and Fanny Rumbert has a divorcee found so much hearted (just lust).

GILLES DUGUPEPE (2)

As independent Quebec, Dugupepe peacefully, would have been an army and a soccer star. In November, he decided Que has needs its own hockey team, too. Through the players followed—"I'm part of Team Canada and Canada as a whole. I'm proud to be a Canadian," said MVP Vincent Lecavalier. Dugupepe's wish has been the most common have in the world: it is to be in eternal opposition.

TOMY BOBBINS (3)

The sci-fi guru won a \$10,000 British Columbia lottery prize in 2001, which he used to "win the wife" of local businessman John Lynch. The police ruled that Bobbins wasn't a hypocrite for doing so. Lynch—though his motivational teachings were about keeping marriages together—became his marriage was already on the rocks. Bobbins, who has since changed his name to Sugi, married Bobbins four years ago.

PARLIAMENTS (4)

The 3rd Parliament will go down as one of the most in history, and not only because of its unusual bilingualism. Thanks to the good idea who try to run the country, Canadians will have to think about voting from the time they start classifying shopping to the time they actually pay off their credit cards. Happy holidays.

DAISY WRIGHT

The beauty pageant judge Law's children and author of countless



'THE NEXT THING I KNOW WE [ARE] RIPPING OFF EACH OTHER'S CLOTHES.'—DAISY WRIGHT, NANNY

story articles "I cannot believe this, Jack Law is sleeping on"—helped derail the actor's engagement to fashion "It" girl (and surprisingly devout actress) Sherry Miller. Sucked when one of the kids found her in bed with Daddy, Wright suggested a nice parting gift: her 11 minutes and a bundle of cash for selling all

DAVID PETERSON

The former Ontario governor's career behind Seneca's floor-covering conversations with the backroom boys in Ottawa and the PM himself, earning the stage for the year's most winning political upset—and leaving Seneca's jury colleagues hopping mad, and her erstwhile boyfriend (deputy leader Peter Mackay "gubernatorial")

THE KING

Once again, Microsoft demonstrates the legality of peddling addictive substances to kids just put it in digital form, package it in a teeny box, and work it in. "We'll start. Many and kids will improve each other's lives under the tree, sugar to ensure the kids are relegated to the basement for the winter months. Peeking at the computer."

TOBY SELLING

Canadian actor Dean McDermott-star of such gems as *My Name Is Earl*. The DuLapand Story—his account of the surgically enhanced drama of Toby Spelling. The pair marry in 2004, filming *Alfred Over Murder*. The 2004 film and daughter of wealthy Aaron Spelling is rumored to be with child—and McDermott filed for divorce from his wife in September.

RETURN OF THE NHL (5)

Knock it all you want, the NHL loves its seasons. When they started blood, the league made it easy for the likes of Marty McSorley, Todd Bertuzzi et al. to cause the ice, convincing (or worse) anyone who stood in their way. When things got messy, the NHL, which was smaller, goalie pads, more stringent officiating and overtime shootouts. Now, we're addicted again. See you next June. M



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★ **DISASTERS** ★

Moether Nature, brutal dictators, fearless terrorists, and other monsters

'THIS IS A NATIONAL EMERGENCY. THIS IS A NATIONAL DISGRACE.'
—TERRY EBBERT

HURRICANE KATRINA

For years, experts warned that the levees protecting low-lying New Orleans would never hold if a big storm came. And come it did on Aug. 29: hurricane Katrina obliterated not just New Orleans but much of the Gulf Coast. Entire towns were devastated. Barges were tossed around like toys. And in the big days, hundreds of thousands of residents, many of them poor and black, were trapped by the rising waters and feared to find for them when help didn't come for days. Katrina's legacy: more than 1,900 people dead, a once vibrant city in ruins, and a government humiliated, or less accurately, by its own stunning failure in the face of disaster.

PHOTO: AP/WIDEWORLD



**'THERE IS
A REAL
DANGER
THAT THIS
NATURAL
DISASTER
WILL BE
FOLLOWED
BY A MAN-
MADE ONE.'**
—**FARHANA
STOCKER,**
OXFAM

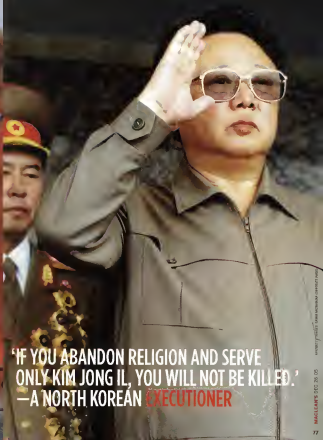
PAKISTANI EARTHQUAKE

Survivors wait for UN helicopters to bring food to the remote Ahar Valley in November, a month after a 7.6-magnitude quake rattled through the rugged north-west region of Pakistan, shattering whole villages off mountain sides. Narrow roads crumbled into the valley below, leaving survivors with no way out. More than 80,000 people were killed, another 80,000 were injured, and at least a half million were left homeless. As winter hampers relief efforts, the death toll is expected to climb.

PHOTOGRAPH BY AP/WIDEWORLD



A CAR BOMB exploded in Baghdad, its quarter-ton of explosives killing 10 people, including Saddam's 35-year-old son, in a car that crashed down on soldiers.



'IF YOU ABANDON RELIGION AND SERVE ONLY KIM JONG IL, YOU WILL NOT BE KILLED.'
—A NORTH KOREAN **EXECUTIONER**



SUICIDE BOMBERS

In London, they hit the transit system. In Jordan, it was three Western-owned hotels. A market in Israel. Restaurants in Bali. In Iraq, the bombings were constant and indiscriminate. By year's end, it seemed there was nowhere suicide bombers wouldn't strike.

HUNGRY Famine

Summer is the crunchiest season in Niger, the second-poorest country in the world. Waiting for the harvest, subsistence farmers are often forced to buy food. But this year, while the supply was plentiful, the prices were too high—and the government refused to distribute free food for fear of disrupting the economy. The result: 2.5 million, including 800,000 children, are in danger of starving to death.

THE TSUNAMI

When the tsunami slammed into the city of Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on Dec. 26, 2004, at least 90,000 died. The impact of the 9.3-magnitude earthquake was felt throughout Asia, as the deadly waves spread out from its Indonesian epicenter. In 2005, the painstaking work of covering the flood began. Today, the death toll worldwide from the disaster stands at 232,000. It will take years, and billions of dollars in international assistance, to rebuild.

DRAGS

On Oct. 27, two Muslim youths were electrocuted while hiding from police by an electrical transformer. Those deaths sparked three weeks of rioting. The highest suburbs around Paris and other major cities were set alight by Muslim youths and, weirdly, the French rallied they have a deep-seated problem with racism and inequality. President Jacques Chirac publicly acknowledged as much, but not before nearly 10,000 cars as well as schools and businesses were torched. **B**



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A Pakistani teenager under armed attack during a Taliban ambush. He was holding an explosives belt as he held a woman's child in an emergency clinic in Niger; American helicopters landing in Banda Aceh, where some foreigners can't find the rescuees but 50,000 people did not; a car borne in the Pakistani suburbs on the eighth night of rioting.



PHOTOGRAPH BY AP/WIDEWORLD; PHOTOS BY AP/WIDEWORLD; PHOTOS BY AP/WIDEWORLD; PHOTOS BY AP/WIDEWORLD



★ WE GIVE IT SIX MONTHS... ★

It's hard to imagine the Letterman-Winfrey trace holding—not to mention Jade and Sienna

BERNARD LORD

The premier of New Brunswick spent like crazy in a failed attempt to help a PC candidate win a by-election in Saint John. The Liberal swept the polls, leaving Lord with a nose-bleed edge in the assembly. His next fix may be a generous estimate, actually.

JUDE LAW & SIENNA MILLER [12]

Engaged, said to come after the divorced actor was also sleeping with his lady's nanny. Oh dear: Miller called the whole thing off and made frequent appearances in tabloids, reportedly consoling with the likes of Leo DiCaprio. But then, her career hotter than ever, she decided to take Jude back. For reasons that remain obscure. Oh yeah, he's gorgeous, and the new reality is...not.

JACK LAYTON & STEPHEN HARPER [11]

This quickie marriage had nothing to do with love, or even life. The NDP and Tories agreed only to bring down the Liberal government. After Jan. 23, expect mutual recriminations.

DAVID LETTERMAN & OPRAH WINFREY [1]

For 16 years their empires went on fire. Finally, just this month, a power tussle between the Queen of Daytime and the King of Late Night. But given her self-imagine-

rance and his impulsive control issues, it's hard to imagine the trace holding.

THE FIRST PROVINCIAL SETTLEMENT WITH RUSS TORRADO

In September, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that B.C. can sue cigarette makers for health costs of smoking illnesses in the past, present and future. Big tobacco has sent 10 American cases for hundreds of billions. Expect the same results here.

ATHINA ONASIS & ALEKSIANDROS KASSIDIS

The Greek heiress, 38, married the British Olympic exponent, 35, in his second marriage. The bride's family's marital history: George Alonzo had a son, Maria Callas, then married Jack Kennedy. Athina's mother, Christina, had an affair with, then died. Her father, Thamyliou, is on his second marriage—and didn't attend her wedding.

MARY KAY LETOURNEAU & VITO PERLAKIS

The 43-year-old teacher finally married her student, who was 17 when the first began sleeping with him nine years ago. Two kids and nearly eight years in prison later, their union was witnessed by family, friends and a tabloid TV show. The bride wore white.

★ IF YOU BLINKED YOU MISSED... ★

The ivory-billed woodpecker, Nicole Kidman wiggling her bill, and Robert Blake getting the bill

CANADIAN RED CROSS

After decades of denial, the Canadian Red Cross finally pleaded guilty for its role in one of the worst public health disasters in Canadian history, and apologized to the 21,000 or so who went on tainted blood products in the '80s and early '90s. Could comfort to the families of the many dead 1,000 Canadians who died.

ROBERT BLAKE'S CIVIL TRIAL [10]

In March, he was found not guilty for the murder of his wife Luanne Platter. Blake's lawyer's civil suit verdict: he "intentionally caused" her death and must pay US\$30 million. He joins G.J. Stangorin on legal paganism: "no guilty" essentially yet clearly responsible for his wife's death.

UNIONIZED WAL-MART IN JOUQUÉ, QUE. [7]

After Jacques' Wal-Mart workers unionized, the company simply closed shop, leaving 100 unemployed. But the union, and reports that Wal-Mart hired security guards to spy on union leaders, hardly hurt the bottom line, which ended the year with US\$1.4 billion in third-quarter sales.

LAW & ORDER: TRIAL BY JURY

The new show—boasting ten courtroom, not the crime—hasn't got a first episode. Too much law, not nearly enough order.

IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER

If a woodpecker, out for a nap in an African swamp, had belated at the wrong moment, then this bird, presumed extinct for more than 60 years, could still be on the dole list. But the guy got a good look at the "Lord God" bird, and in the spring, experts announced that yes, the woodpecker is very much alive.

KEVIN KELSEY & KENNY GRESSEY [4]

The Oscar winner with the trade mark fish face expression (a) ditches his ex-wife (b) takes up with a man who wears a cowboy hat for a living, and (c) marries cowboy hat on a whim. Five months later, when the marriage is annulled on grounds of "fraud," fish face looks pretty bitter, and the cowboy is adding wiggy rumors—can't he handle for a country singer.

JOHN NASH

The Nobel Science premier announced his resignation after a certain number of years and a certain number of accomplishments. Why did no one notice? No one is certain.

SMITHSONIAN [3]

Nicole Kidman wiggled her nose. Will Ferrell chewed the scenery. Viewers stayed home. M.

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MACLEAN'S

A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

By June and September prize winners will receive a \$10,000 loan to purchase a diamond. The \$10,000 loan will be repaid over 10 years with interest.

ROGERS

10. "The line between legitimate tax minimization and abusive tax avoidance... is far from bright," the court declared in its landmark ruling. Good news for big, sophisticated corporations, but is any help for the little guy?

MARIA THORNTON 301
This year the only won Tokyo, Birmingham and Dubai—you know, that famous Premier Golf tournament. So why's she the best-paid female athlete, earning US\$20 million a year? Being tall, blond, gorgeous and 36 doesn't hurt. But is she a tennis player, or just a model?



MARGARET THREGER
PCT's legacy boss: Maggie got out of a drunk driving charge thanks to her late ex. In November, a judge ruled the arresting officer denied her the right to a lawyer of her choice—an entitlement under the Trudeau championed Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Bye-bye DUI. ■

*** PURGES ***
CIBC
Paid US\$2.4 billion and laid off 550 to settle Enron mess.

PIY WILKS
After a series of gruesome accidents, Ontario's top-ranked pit bulls to be neutered and crated.

* LOSERS *

Not a good year for hockey players, gas guzzlers, birds, or a couple of suicide mayors



11. **HIT PLAYERS ZERO**
No cap. Never OK, maybe a US\$40 million cap. No? How about US\$5 million? Look-Good now walks the plank for the pay-long lockout.

FRANCO PILLARELLA
Canada's blacked-out former ambassador told the Azar inquiry he'd had no idea Ottawa's inquiry Azar was being systematically run—let alone "that there were serious human rights abuses" in notoriously repressive Syria.

SPAIN AIRSPACE
After 40 years, the Edmonton-based company lost the contract to service Canada's fleet of 116 military transport aircraft. Ottawa bailed. (The 50-year, \$425-million prior to the Canada Aerospace of Abbotsford, B.C.)

JEAN GRANTHER 201
Despite braves performance in the Gimney inquiry (once golf balls), the judge's report left in limbo room for doubt about the far over PM's responsibility for the sponsorship mess.

12. **IML GOONS**
New rules ruled to drugs. Maybe a second career in WWF?

CONSERVATIVE BACKROOM BOSS (AND KID)
Many senior parliamentarians still go proleptic in September. Good leave for Harper? Check back Jan 23.

THE HORSEY INDUSTRY 130
The U.S. imposed duties on softwood lumber totaling \$5 billion plus, despite a NAFTA ruling that these duties are illegal (recently, the U.S. cut the rate in half). The high Canadian dollar has eroded profit margins on exports, a \$1.5 billion loss package was left.

THE IRISH PEOPLE
Anyone who can get out, has—including many of the surgeons needed to sew up victims of the ongoing insurrection. Mayhem and murder have become a way of life. In August, a fatal murder of a suicide bomber sparked a rampage of 20th-century anti-Baghdad bridge. At least 350 died.

SEN INQUIRER LAMER
After two decades of suffering, families of the 1981 bombing victims saw defendants Republican Singh-Malik and Jyoti Singh-Baghi acquitted. Canadian authorities in the \$100-million cashed-out and/or destroyed key pieces of evidence. In November, former Ontario premier Bob Rae decided a forced inquiry was needed.

GENERAL HOPKINS
CEO Rick Hopkiss sent good-news letters to all 335,000 employees we're not going bankrupt! Still layoff 30,000, including 1,900 in Canada.

PERSONAL COACHES
Herald coach and his staff fired last week. Merry Christmas! ■

13. **THEIR APPARENTLY POPULAR OUTGOING VANCOUVER MAYOR LARRY CAMPBELL** lost to Sam Sullivan, in no small measure because thousands of voters went to another candidate on the ballot—a guy named James Green.

CHEEKERS & OTHER PONS 121
First Colonel Sandson. Now, even the deadly H5N1 epidemic has led to a slaughter of more than 150 million birds so far, in numbers from Asia to Europe try to contain the virus.

AMERICAN AUTOMAKERS
High oil prices hobbled sales of gas guzzling SUVs and pickup trucks, even zero per cent financing deals didn't help. Bedded with huge labour costs and massive pension liabilities, car makers lay off thousands of workers.

JEAN CHAREST
In 2005, Quebec voters elected a fledgling premier for change, and he proved so for the province's finances by improving relations with Ottawa. Nothing worked. Public services and students are on rotating strikes, the deficit is almost \$2 billion this year, and cash-limited Ottawa is hanging in on the province's jurisdiction.

BOLLYWOOD BOX OFFICE
Amid numerous piracy rip-offs—Cinema's Man, anyone—box office receipts tanked. Marketing premium blew the doors of the \$14 movie ticket and, oh yes, crummy movies.

CHRISTY CLAR
Less than a year after quitting politics to spend more time with her family, the former B.C. deputy premier decided enough with domesticity—but failed to win the New Partnership Association nomination for the Vancouver mayoralty, putting paid to any attempt to run as a Liberal MP.

300K
The personal Canadian rock groups were again shut out of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, despite 22 gold records, two-album platinum, and the love of Bob-bles in Tudor Park. Bye-bye. ■

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ROGERS
Your World. Right Now.

'I have never used steroids. Period.'
—Rafael Palmeiro, Baltimore Orioles first baseman, on steroids in May, he failed a drug test

'There is no victory here today, there are no winners. We are all losers. I lost a child, my parents lost a grandchild, and the Ellands lost their daughter.'

—Samson Wink, after Kelly Ellard was convicted of killing Wink's daughter, Reena, in April



'I THINK THEY'RE IN THE LAST THROES, IF YOU WILL, OF THE INSURGENCY.'

—U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, on the situation in Iraq, May 30



'WOW! BRAZIL IS BIG.'

—U.S. President George W. Bush, after being shown a map of Brazil by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

'People prostitute themselves for different costs or different prices. She sold out for a cabinet position.'

—Saskatchewan Conservative MP Maurice Yelland, on Belinda Stronach's defection to the Liberal party



'If he thinks we're trying to assassinate him, I think we really ought to go ahead and do it. It's a whole lot cheaper than starting a war.'

—U.S. broadcaster Pat Robertson, Christian host of The 700 Club, advising the Bush administration to murder Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez



'GEORGE BUSH DOESN'T CARE ABOUT BLACK PEOPLE.'

—Singer Kanye West, during a televised concert to raise money for the victims of hurricane Katrina

'Since Mr. Chrétien chose to run the program from his own office, and to have his own exempt staff take charge of its direction, he is accountable.'

—Justice John Crampton, in his first report on the federal sponsorship scandal



'I KNEW INSTANTLY, BECAUSE HE KEPT SETTING HIS PHASER ON "FABULOUS!"'

—William Shatner, on how he figured out George Takei, Mr. Spock on Star Trek, was gay

MACLEAN'S READERS' CHOICE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE YEAR IN HEALTHCARE

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Over the past month, readers have voted on macleans.ca
for the Achievement of the Year in Healthcare.

The results are in!

- 1• Dr. Thomas J. Hudson**
Scientific Director of McGill University and Génomique Québec Innovation Centre, he led Canada's contribution to the HaploType Map, the first comprehensive catalogue of human genetic variations, a landmark achievement that is already accelerating the search for genes involved in common diseases such as asthma, diabetes, cancer and heart disease.
- 2• Dr. André Veillette**
Montreal researcher led a team that identified a new anti-cancer, anti-infection response control mechanism.
- 3• Dr. James Till and Dr. Ernest McCulloch**
Cancer researchers won the Lasker Award, North America's most coveted medical research prize, for proving the existence of stem cells.
- 4• Dr. Heinz Feldmann and Dr. Steven Jones**
Scientists from the Public Health Agency of Canada helped develop vaccines against the Ebola and Marburg viruses.

Thanks to all *Maclean's* readers who voted.

MACLEAN'S



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★ WARDROBE ★ MALFUNCTIONS

From the Vatican to MTV, the fashion critic rate rose sharply in 2007



ALAN HODGSETT

Critics do. He couldn't be here tonight, and neither could Diane Kruger. Or Umberto.



POPE BENEDICT XVI

Children's shoes and pipes after we're. "There's no place like Rome. There's no place like Rome."

DICK CRENAY

This secretary was. That's the didn't tell me this was the 6th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. I thought we were here to celebrate the invention of the mangleboard.



STEPHEN HARPER & PAUL MARTIN

Country boys from First Nations, Part 3. One side has grass, hats, and cool leather wear. The other has arrows, fangs, and cool wilderness. Can't we write this the old-fashioned way, with an election?



MICHAEL JACKSON

The blazer is Gacy, and the pyrotechnic act—well, let me ask the boy who asked them to go



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★ FLAME-OUTS ★

A butt-kicking bodybuilder, a grounded charter airline, a failed sexual technician

KATE MOORE [4] In September, a British tabloid ran photos of the world's top model sporting coke. Such a Moore/vicious-dar-Glad and Ferber only dropped her after she admitted that yes, that was snorted coke in the picture, not some weed now gone gold. Disgraced, Moore returned to rehab.

MICHAEL BROWN Nothing qualifies a man for the title of disaster relief quite like a man with the International Airline Floor Association. When Hurricane Katrina struck, hundreds of thousands were trapped by the rising waters in New Orleans—while the head of IATA fretted about his wardrobe in emails to aides, and Bush said, "However, you're doing a heck of a job." Not. With supply lines tangled, logistics derailed and lives in running smoke, Brown shook away from FEMA on Sept. 12.

PIERRE PETTIGREW Shanghai Pettigrew sat out the tsunami in his Paris apartment, rescheduled a post-Katrina meeting with Condoleezza Rice to say "other commitments," and called former PQ premier "Texan." You'd think the foreign minister would say a little harder, given he was on his last legs by a scant 48 hours.

HARRIET HIGGS George W. Bush reclaimed his long-time White House counsel was a sure thing for the U.S. Supreme Court. No rulings, no footprints? Republicans felt differently about her lack of proven conservative (read: anti-abortion) credentials and intellectual heft. She withdrew after 30 days.

REYNO [1] Pardon us for 29 planes and filed for bankruptcy protection on March 11, making spring travel for some 17,000 travellers. It was the third failed airline venture

for Mitchell Leblanc, who proposed competing jets and personally leading a bank out of bankruptcy. Creditors had a better idea: they liquidated and told Leblanc to get lost.

B.C. LIONS They went 11-6, then lost six of their last seven games and finished against Edmonton in the western final. Most baseball stars, the Grey Cup was held in Vancouver, and they didn't even have a shot at it.

RAY DOMANOWITZ **HEALTH REPORT** The darling of the left was crowned Tommy Douglas's heir for his coolly but far-reaching commitment to health care—now getting old, while politicians puzzle over how to fix the system.

THE MYSTERY OF DNA Two hundred researchers created a map of five million areas in the human genome where DNA makes up a difference from person to person—variations that help explain such diseases as diabetes, depression and cancer. Scientists think this map will help them eventually solve puzzles humanity looked at for decades.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER [1] Hatched all year by rumors for threatening to "kick their butt," the governor of California saw all four of his propositions defeated in a statewide ballot in November. A sequel to his term looks unlikely.

GERHART GRÖVEL At first, the Conservative B.C. MP and amateur sound technician seemed to be Stephen Harper's silver bullet: a high-sounding expert in tech (he's the Minister of Industry) and Martin's chief of staff on a patronage-for-votes scheme. But the top turned out to be empty, and Grövel went on to leave, so did his party. ■



'I'M JUST THANKFUL I D'T RETIRE LAST YEAR.'
—**DAMON ALLEN, 42, CLAYER OF THE YEAR**

★ COMEBACKS ★

An aging spaceship, an aging quarterback, an aging fleet, and a boatload of brigands

KATE MOORE [4] When Vanity Fair put her on the cover, asking "Can she come back?"—she's back.

ROBERT MILDEN The once-embattled CEO now fixed as a top corporate leader. After emerging from bankruptcy protection last year, the new Air Canada posted a \$161-million profit in the first nine months of 2005. Then came a \$600-million distribution to shareholders and a spurt of a schism of its just regional sibling.

PIERRE First, Johnny Depp. Then in November, the band's return was a surprise, even planned in January—uncensored, and a nearly a movie talk.

DAMON ALLEN Quarterbacks are supposed to cut in a flurry of receivers, down the line and broken down. But the 41-year-old (ago) passed for 3,000 yards—the highest total in his 21-year career.

THE FIRST CANADIAN FLAG The original run up the Peace Tower flagpole on Feb. 15, 1967, former regular Stephen Leacock moved to Europe and kept it in a closet. His widow was holding the thing hostage in a dispute with Ottawa over her husband's presence, even threatening to sell it on eBay. She finally relented, and it came home July 1.

FRANK The magazine in which Ottawa readers look into one another's affairs—online, anyway.

ROCKY WILLIAMS [1] In 2004, the instantly talented morning back dropped to Australia to study holistic medicine and live in a cave. A lawsuit from the Miami Dolphins brought him back in September—only to be shipped with a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's drug policy.

SPRUE SHUTTLE [1] Four flew off Discovery during its July launch, and all 4 days in space were spent doing away with and repair impossible. It did come back, but the shuttle may never go up again. ■

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES

★ IT'S SO 2005 ★

Cheap beer, little cars, white trash
—and a good old-fashioned Red scare

THE CHINESE ARE COMING!
THE CHINESE ARE COMING! [1] Crying out all sorts of copper, possibly in fit time to start leaving the Chinese behind?

CELLPHONE NEWS PHOTOS [1] Chinese photographers capture the air France jet, London bombings, plus Brad and Angelina

CELEBS QUICKLY AND MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEAR
BART WEIGHT [2] Hey! Klem sticks down Victoria's Secret runway weeks after giving birth. Why? Why?

DISASTER INTENSE
Being involved in the biggest of poverty by the insurance/burial/charitable—then carrying on as usual

WHITE-TRASH CANNIBALS [2] Our contribution to world culture: Diner/Park Rap, Street-Bat of Coward Girl, and Nihilist's Chad Krueger

CHEAPO BEER [1] Move over, Moonshine! It beer has arrived.

ONLINE NEWS IS NO LONGER "NOT REAL NEWS"
As the popularity of newspapers declines, the acceptability of Web-based news sources rises

BYRON HAZARD/BLISS
PART 2 "May we live long and die out" is the slogan of the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement, a group hell-bent on saving the Earth by wiping out humanity.

MISSING SERIALS
THROUGH A PUBLICIST... [1] But a relationship is on the rocks then pleading for privacy, then by ensuring papers are taken to prove the story—which turns out to be true. Jessica and Nick, RIP

AMONGSTING YOU'RE PLATONIC [1] American Idol Ferreira Barrios and former KILLAR Jacques Desnais confirm they can't read

RUNNING CAPITAL MARKETS
Lazare, trust, a record merger and acquisition market, spurring ed and gold sectors—why do we still feel so poor?

ELLEN COPPEL MONKIES
Johanna enters to conserve ink. Brangina, Brangina and Vaughn answer are being.

REDO-MAGNETIC/REINFORCE
PART 2 University of Alberta ecologist David Schindler suggests Alberta will die of thirst unless it caps population and economic growth

LAST WEEKENDS [2] Watching an entire season of a TV series on DVD in one sitting

SMALL CAR/WARRIORS [1] Even thunders are about fuel efficiency, the Honda Civic is Canada's most stolen car

GOAL [2] Tops USA 540 an ounce for the first time in 21 years

SOCKETAL STANALYS [2 & 1] Lindsay Lohan, Macho Baron, Ben Hisher, Ellen Pompeo, Mary-Kate and the slightly less skilled Ashley Olsen

GUN VIOLENCE IN TORONTO [2] There were at least 50 gun murders this year, including one at a funeral for an another gun victim

BOARDING TAMELY [2] Despite its questionable effectiveness against Asian flu, plane makers couldn't keep it in stock

DARWIN VS.
THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT in the U.S., a fight for God, a k a, intelligent design, to be part of the science curriculum

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
SEXIST BOMBING
More women than ever flew themselves up in the Middle East

CALLING OFF THE
WOLF/IN... [1] members after it's announced Pam Hilt and Pam Lantz, Kimberly Stewart and Taka Tarnoff

WIND TURBINES [2] Wind farms spring up across the country

★ TIME CAPSULE ★

- Rubber bracelets for a cause
- Peasant skirts
- Fast Excursion SUV
- Burton Aesler jacket [1]
- Disposable Housenotes [2]
- Logged golf balls
- Nuzo Food [1]
- Motorola RAZR phone [2]
- Iced Cappuccino —dunka, Kalia [2]
- Face transplant
- Michael Jackson—quick, seal the inside! [2]

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* DEATHS *

Ted Atkinson, 88, jockey
John (Long John) Baldry, 64, singer [18]
Anne Pavese, 75, actress [6]
Ron Busford, 72, introduced the metric system in Canada [4]
Saul Bellow, 89, author [14]
William Roache, 90, film
Richard Attenborough, 85, actor [15]
Edward Broadbent, 77, businessman [14]
Chuck Cadman, 57, independent Member of Parliament [22]
James Callaghan, 92, British prime minister [10]
Bill Cameron, 60, journalist [9]
Johnny Carson, 79, comedian [10]
Jeremy Clarkson, 57, journalist [23]
Dominic Monaghan, 39, composer and guitarist [24]
Allan Waters, 84, CHUM media founder [12]
Jonathan Welsh, 57, actor [23]
William Shatner, 71, U.S. commander in Vietnam [24]
Simon Wiesenthal, 96, Nazi hunter [24]
Brian Woodfield, 24, Canada's first police officer [24]
Rosemary Woods, 57, Nixon's secretary [24]
Zhao Ziyang, 85, reformer [24]

Eric (Alberta Slim) Edwards, 91, modelling cowboy [2]
King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, 84 [14]
Maurice Gagné, 25, Laval police constable [14]
Anthony Gaudin, 38, RCMP constable [14]
Edward Heath, 89, British prime minister [10]
Lain Hake, 71, Alberta businessman [10]
Roland Heeslerich, 86, publisher [14]
Peter Jennings, 67, journalist [14]
James Jones, 72, House of Commons speaker [14]
Pope John Paul II, 84 [14]
Philip Johnson, 96, architect [14]
Leo Johnson, 31, RCMP constable [14]
George Kennan, 93, U.S. diplomat and historian [14]
Charles Clarence Lohing, 106, last surviving Canadian First World War veteran to have won action [14]
Robert LeBlanc, 24, Canadian Forces landing aircraft [14]
Christine McCall, 70, journalist [14]
Irene Mordue, 60, film producer [14]
Arthur Miller, 89, playwright [14]
Robert Moog, 71, synthesizer inventor [14]
Frank Moore, 72, Newfoundland promoter [21]
Erick Myron, 29, RCMP constable [14]
Max Schmalz, 99, boxer [14]
Rosa Parks, 92, civil rights pioneer [14]

Richard Pryor, 65, comedian [14]
Prince Rainier III of Monaco, 81 [14]
William Schnitzler, 80, U.S. Supreme Court chief justice [14]
Louis Robichaud, 79, New Brunswick premier [14]
Miriam Rothchild, 96, sex expert [14]
Peter Schumann, 25, RCMP constable [14]
Emory (Smiley) Smith, 91, last surviving Canadian to be awarded the Victoria Cross [24]
Hunter S. Thompson, 67, journalist [14]
Domonic Trotano, 39, composer and guitarist [24]
Allan Waters, 84, CHUM media founder [12]
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